

SEAN MURPHY WITH MATT HOLLINGSWORTH

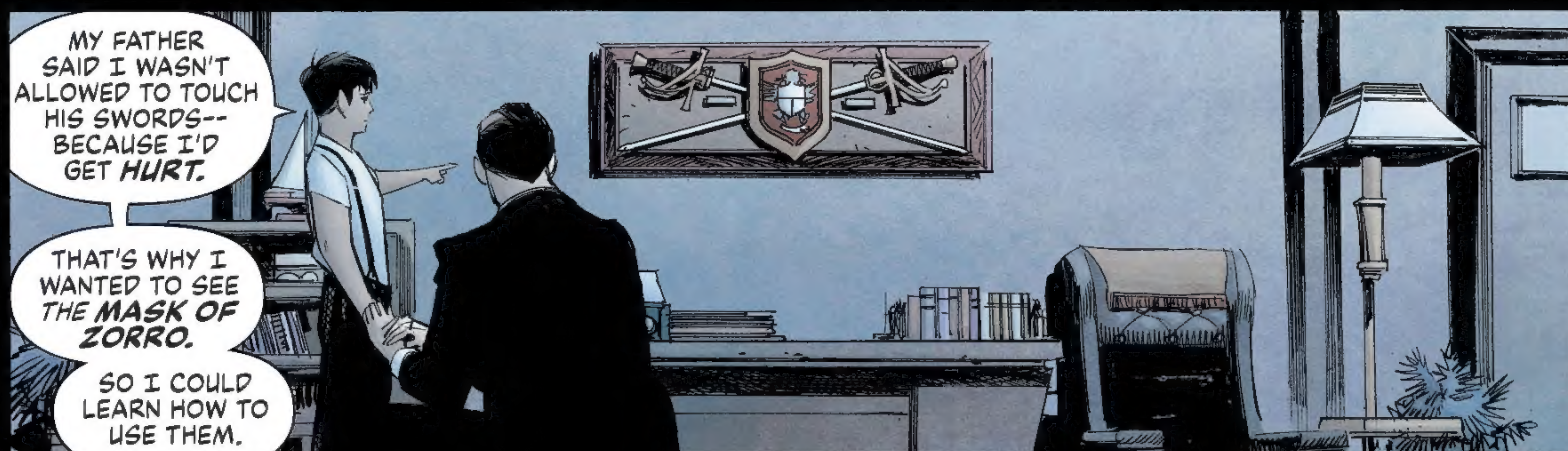
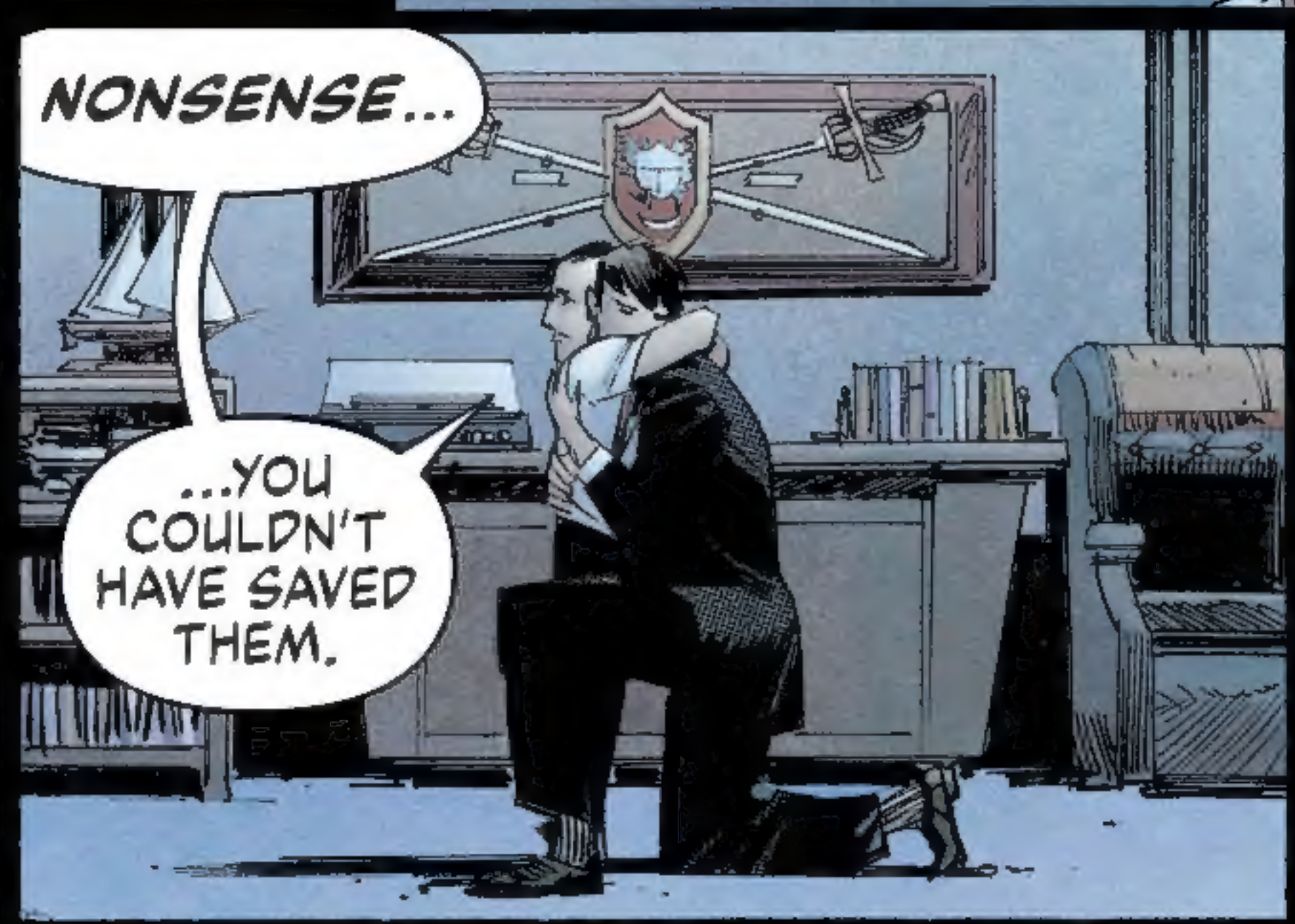
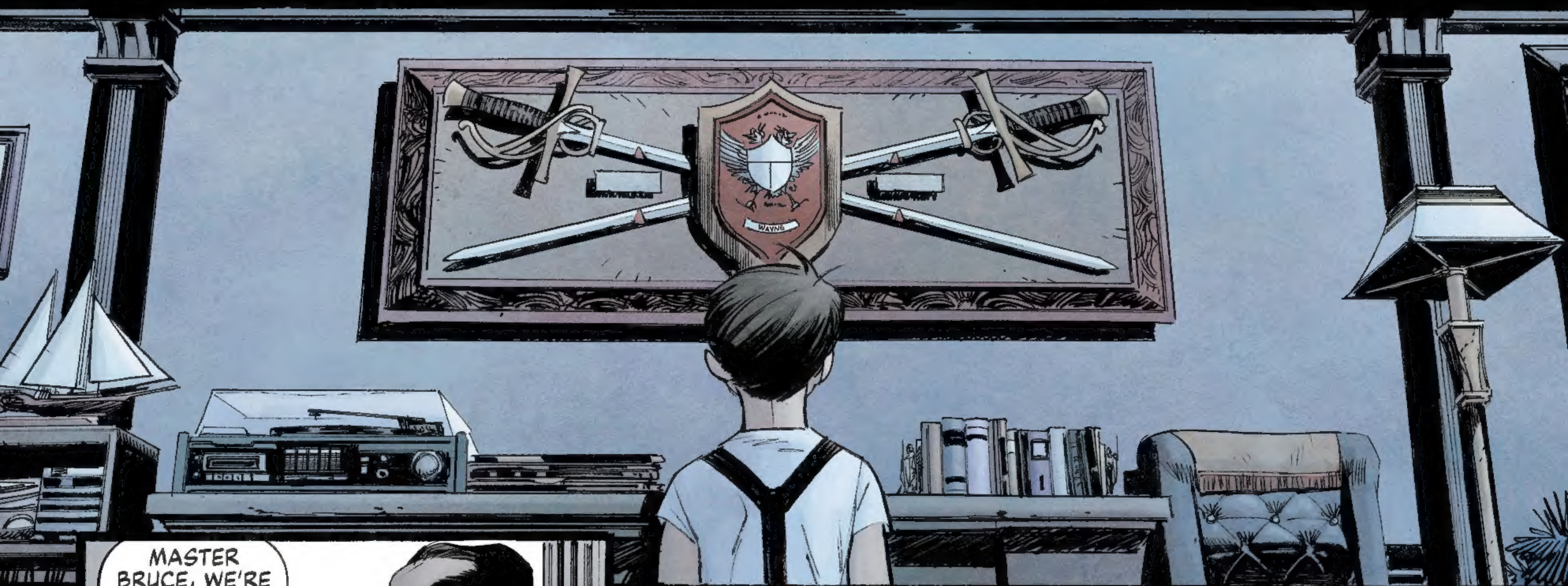
BATMAN

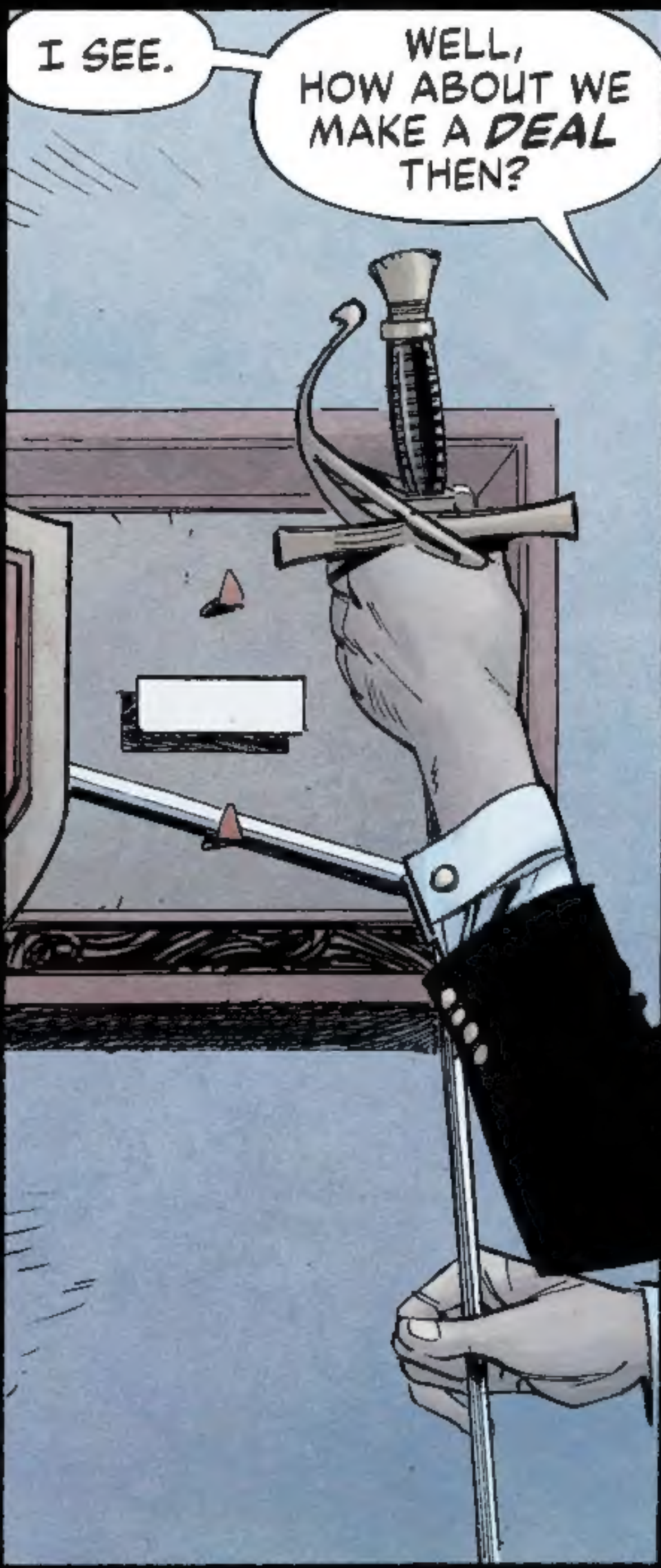
CURSE OF THE WHITE KNIGHT

BOOK SEVEN



BATMAN
CURSE OF THE
WHITE KNIGHT
BOOK SEVEN





I SEE.

WELL,
HOW ABOUT WE
MAKE A *DEAL*
THEN?

IF YOU'RE
READY TO
ATTEND THE
FUNERAL, THEN
I THINK YOU'RE
READY TO HOLD
HIS *RAPIER*.

REALLY?

AND WHEN WE
GET BACK, I'LL
TEACH YOU HOW
TO *USE* IT. I'LL
TEACH YOU HOW
TO *FIGHT*.

SO THE NEXT
TIME YOU'RE IN
DANGER, YOU'LL
KNOW WHAT
TO DO.

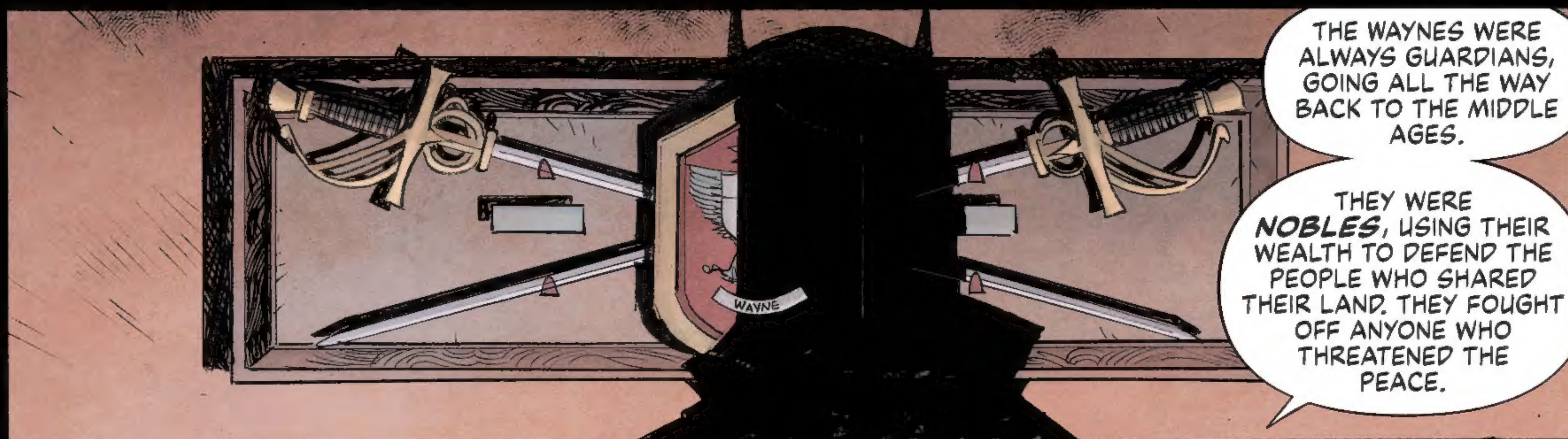


~SNIFF~

LIKE
ZORRO?



LIKE
ZORRO.



THE WAYNES WERE ALWAYS GUARDIANS, GOING ALL THE WAY BACK TO THE MIDDLE AGES.

THEY WERE **NOBLES**, USING THEIR WEALTH TO DEFEND THE PEOPLE WHO SHARED THEIR LAND. THEY FOUGHT OFF ANYONE WHO THREATENED THE PEACE.



I ALWAYS WANTED TO HONOR THAT TRADITION HERE IN GOTHAM.



YOU WANTED TO BE A **KNI**GT.



LEARNING THE TRUTH ABOUT EDMOND HAS BEEN **DIFFICULT** FOR ME.

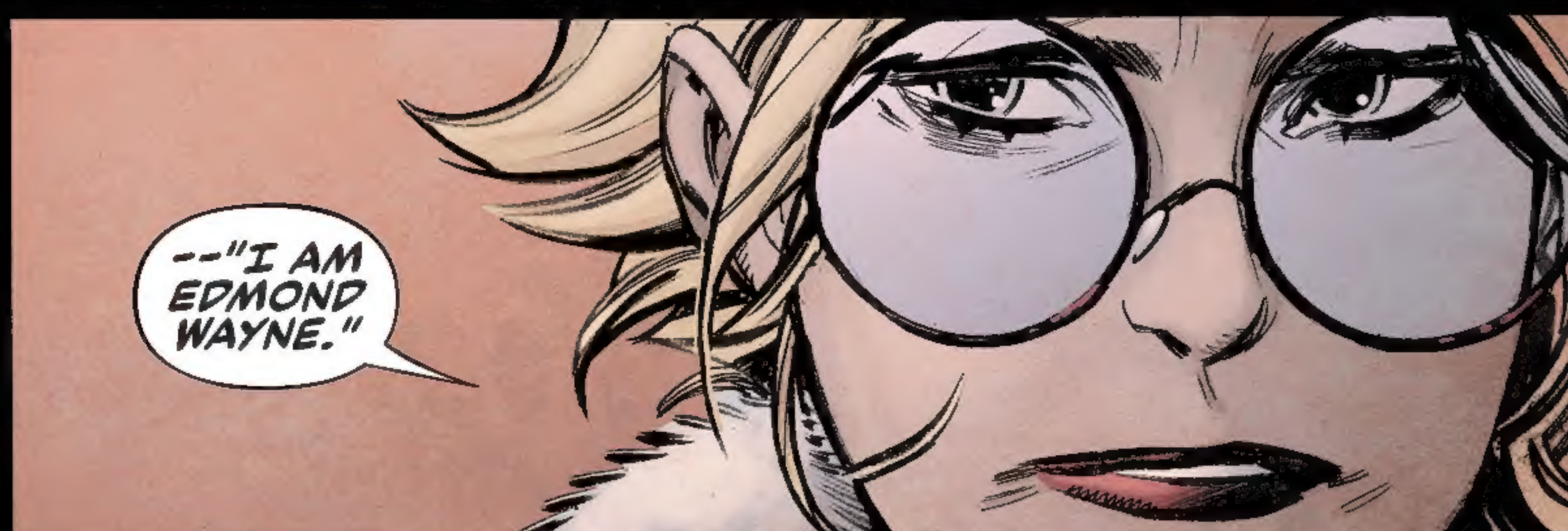
I WAS PREPARED TO ACCEPT THAT THE **WAYNES HAD SECRETS**, AND THAT MAYBE THEIR PAST WASN'T AS VIRTUOUS AS I'D IMAGINED--



--BUT I NEVER ONCE CONSIDERED THAT **I WASN'T A WAYNE TO BEGIN WITH.**

THAT'S THE TRUE MEANING OF THE **BLOOD MESSAGE.**

DNA TEST CONFIRMS IT-- AZRAEL'S A DESCENDANT OF WHOEVER WROTE THESE WORDS--



--"I AM EDMOND WAYNE."



YOU KNEW?

YOU WERE RIGHT--I **WAS** KEEPING SOMETHING FROM YOU. JACK AND I WERE WORRIED WHAT THE **TRUTH** MIGHT DO TO YOU.

I KNEW YOU'D EVENTUALLY FIGURE IT OUT. AND THAT THERE WAS NOTHING I COULD DO TO STOP IT...

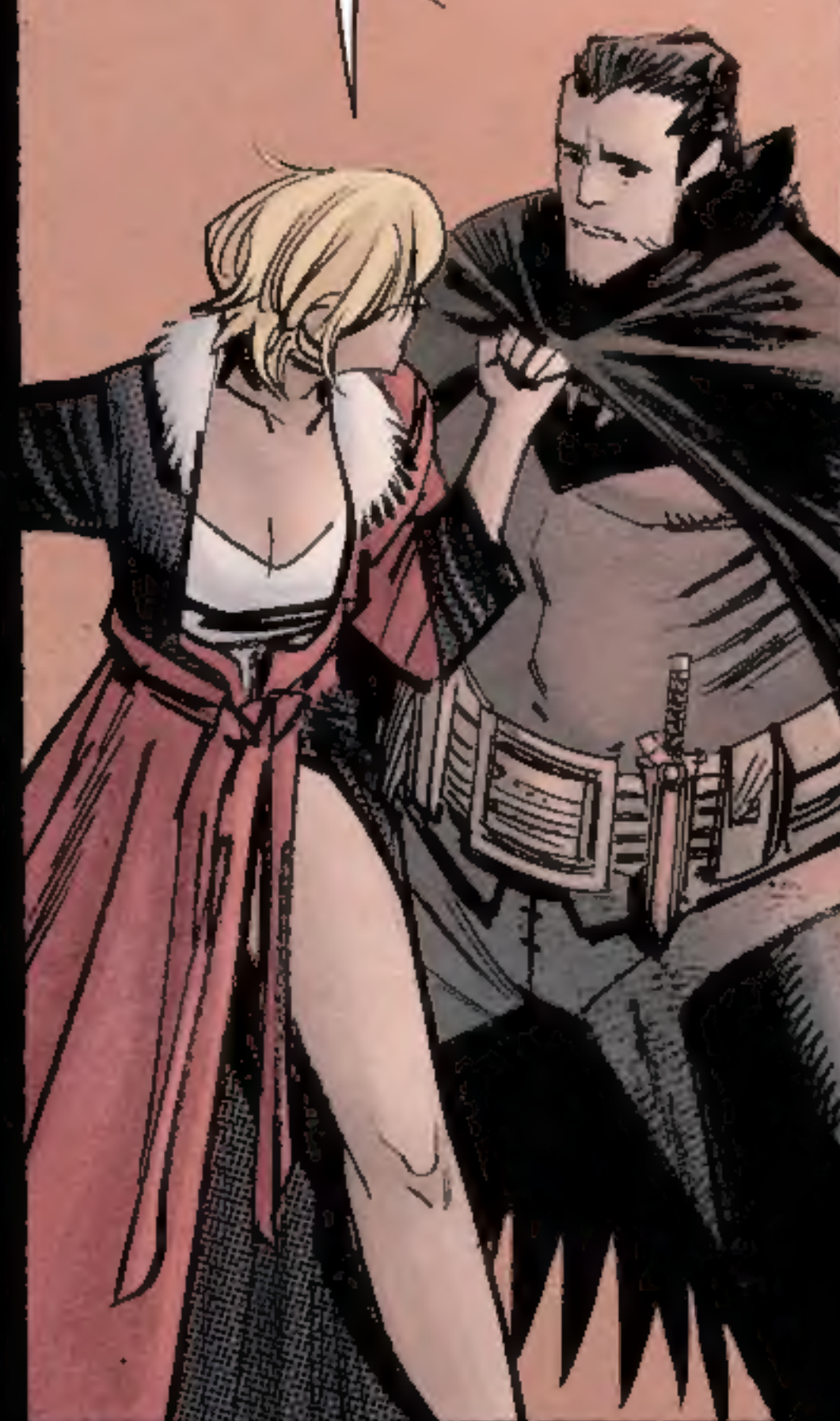
...EXCEPT **BE THERE** FOR YOU.



JOKER'S RIGHT--**THERE IS A CURSE IN GOTHAM.**

ME.

THAT'S BULLSHIT!
WAS YOUR **FATHER A CURSE?**
WAS YOUR **MOTHER?**
THEY'RE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR SOMETHING THEY NEVER EVEN KNEW ABOUT, AND **NEITHER ARE YOU!**



WHO CARES IF YOU'RE NOT TECHNICALLY A WAYNE! YOU'RE STILL DOING WHAT THEY'VE ALWAYS DONE--GUARDING THE CITY, USING YOUR FORTUNE TO PROTECT THE PEOPLE--

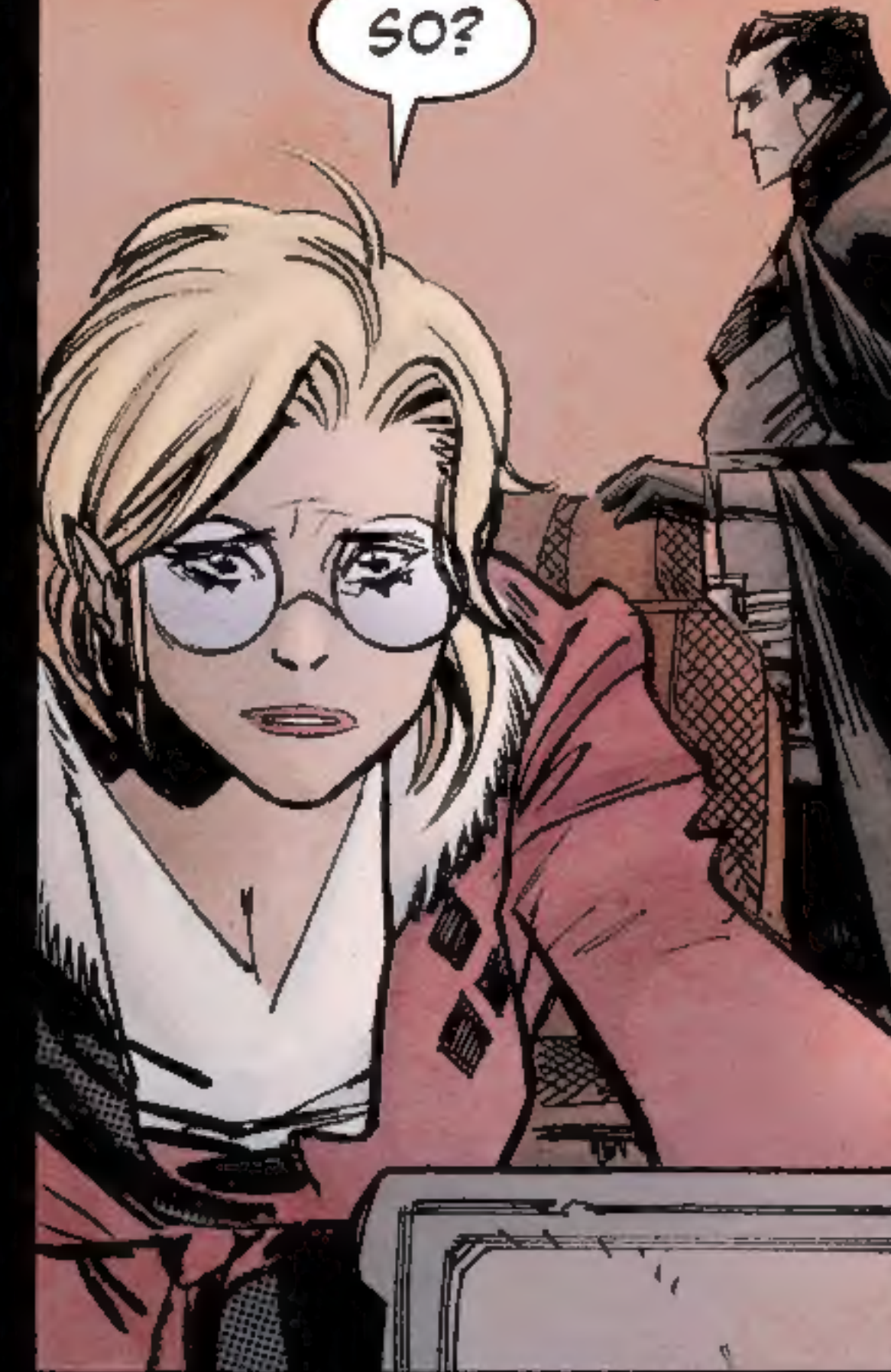
NOT ACCORDING TO THIS.



A LIST OF THE ELITES--THE GTO FINALLY FOUND RUTH. OR WHAT WAS LEFT OF HER.

THESE ARE THE NAMES OF **EVERY BUSINESS** AND **EVERY INVESTOR** SHE'S EVER MADE A DIME FOR.

SO?



MOST OF IT'S CHanneled THROUGH ONE COMPANY--THE LARGEST COMPANY IN GOTHAM.

WAYNE-CORP.



THAT'S WHY SHE
DIDN'T TELL GOTHAM
THE TRUTH ABOUT
BATMAN.

BECAUSE I'M
HER **BIGGEST**
CLIENT.

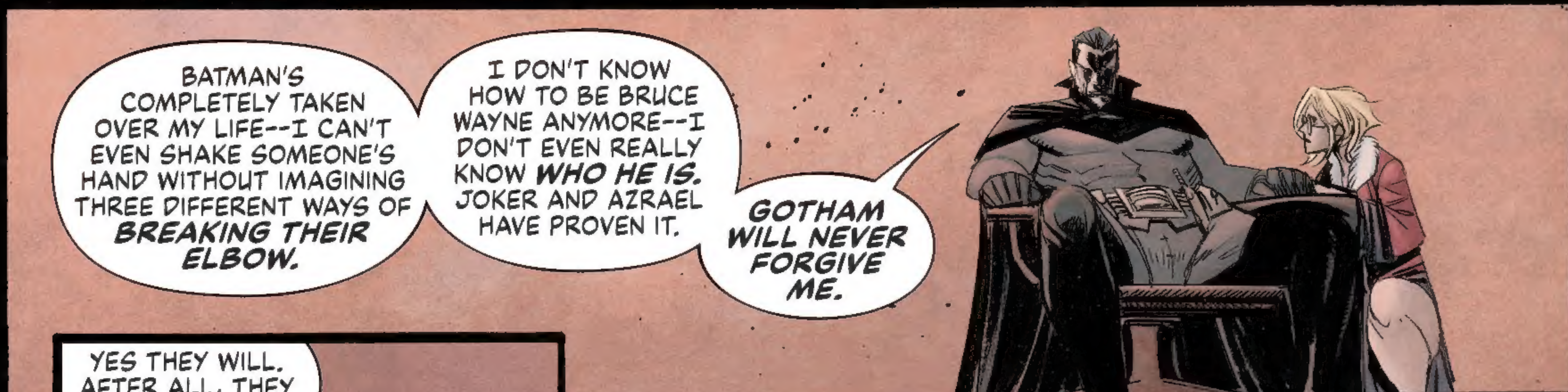
AND YOU
NEVER KNEW?
I MEAN, YOU'RE
BATMAN.



THAT'S THE
PROBLEM.

I SPEND EACH
NIGHT ON PATROL. I
SPEND EACH DAY READING
CRIME REPORTS, REPAIRING
VEHICLES, AND CLEANING
THE BLOOD OFF MY
BOOTS.

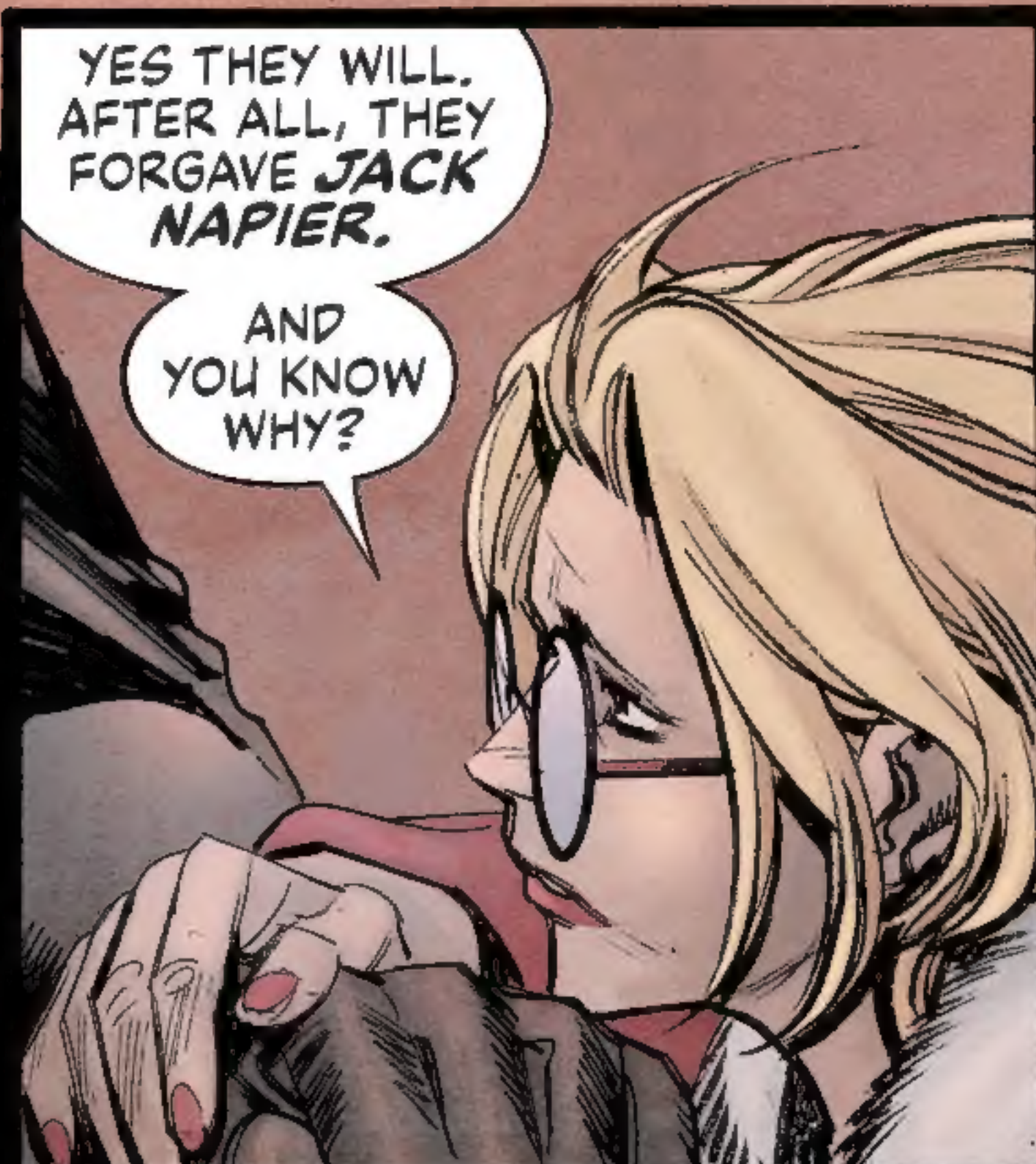
THERE'S NO TIME
TO HEAL AND NO TIME TO
REST BECAUSE SHUTTING
MY EYES MEANS **LETTING**
PEOPLE DIE.



BATMAN'S
COMPLETELY TAKEN
OVER MY LIFE--I CAN'T
EVEN SHAKE SOMEONE'S
HAND WITHOUT IMAGINING
THREE DIFFERENT WAYS OF
BREAKING THEIR
ELBOW.

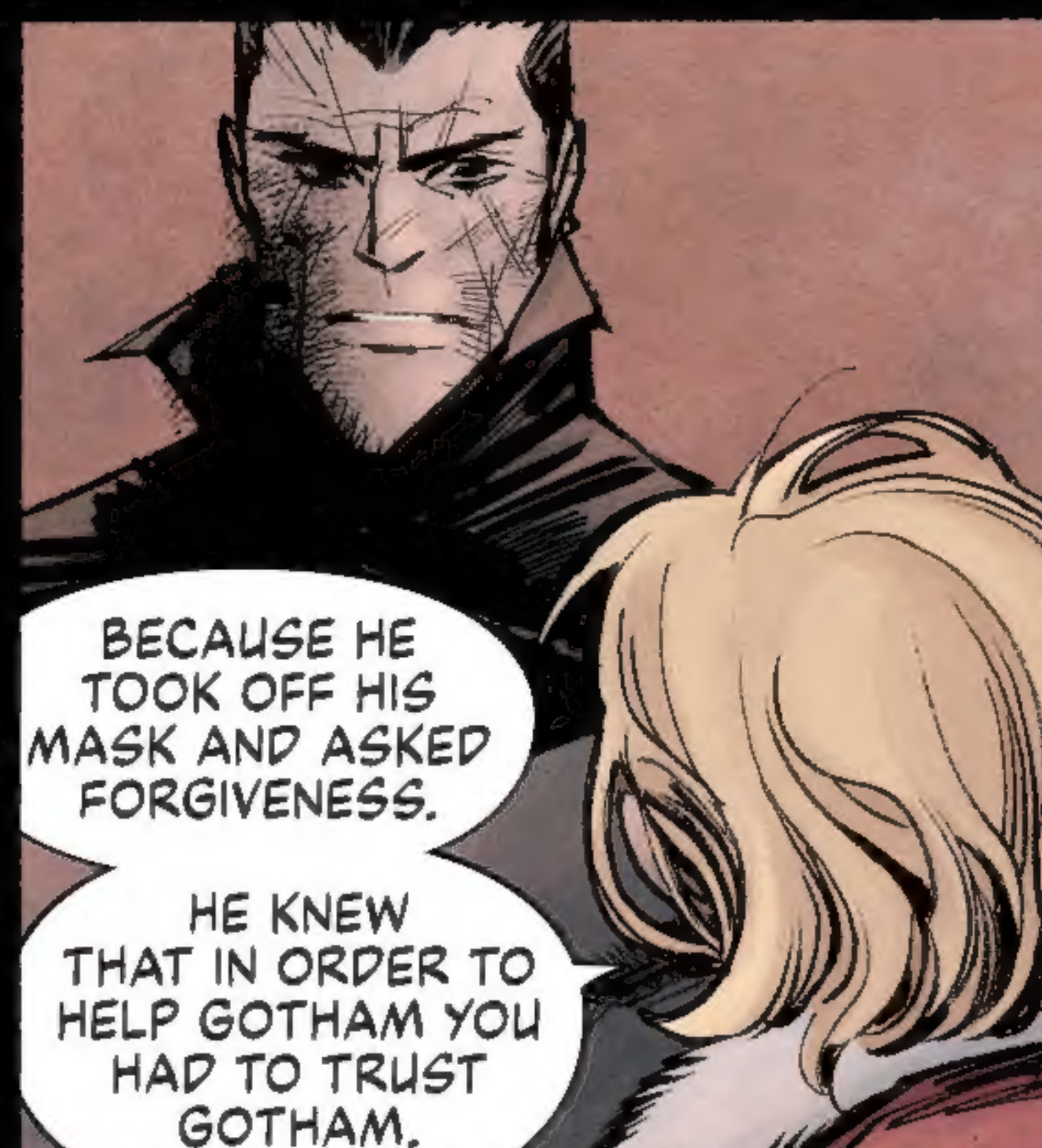
I DON'T KNOW
HOW TO BE BRUCE
WAYNE ANYMORE--I
DON'T EVEN REALLY
KNOW **WHO HE IS**.
JOKER AND AZRAEL
HAVE PROVEN IT.

GOTHAM
WILL NEVER
FORGIVE
ME.



YES THEY WILL.
AFTER ALL, THEY
FORGAVE **JACK**
NAPIER.

AND
YOU KNOW
WHY?



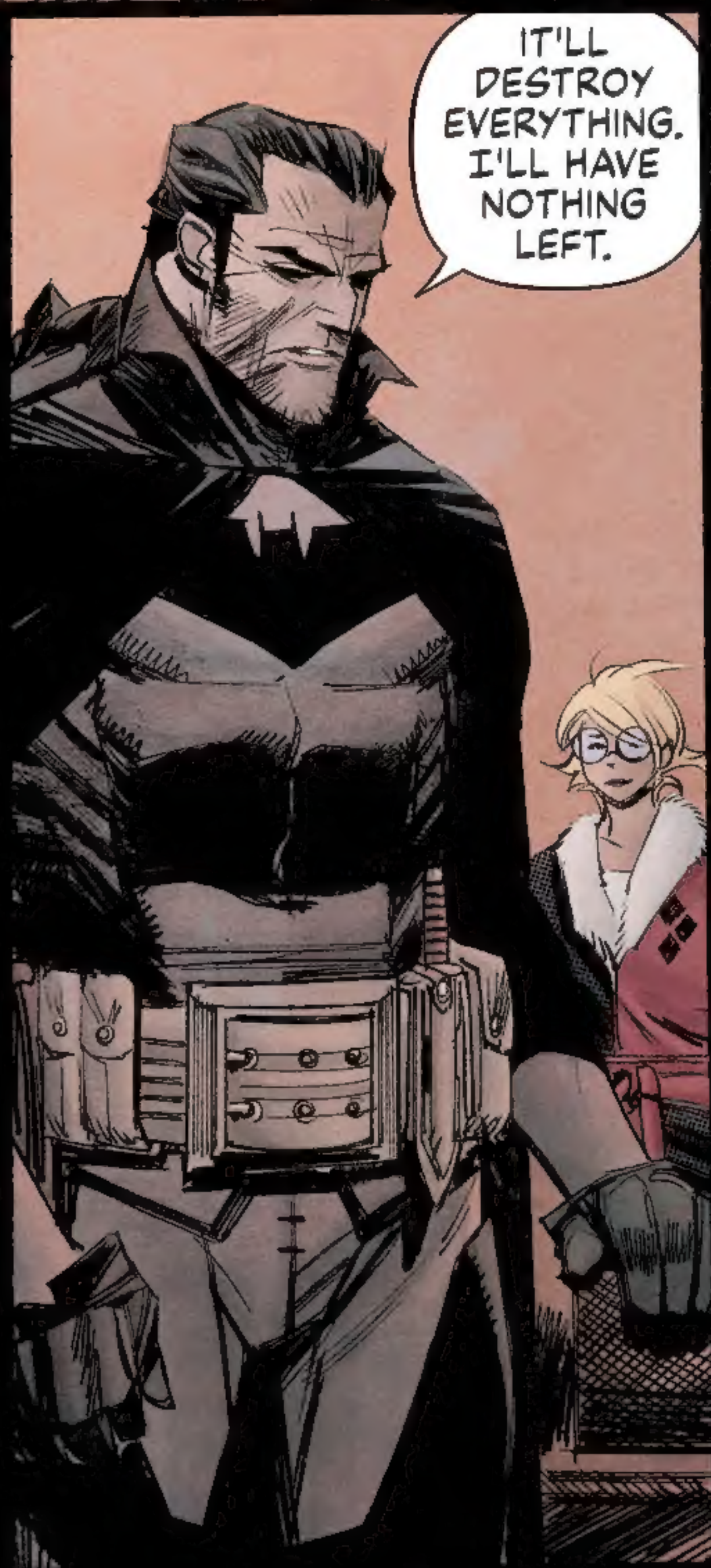
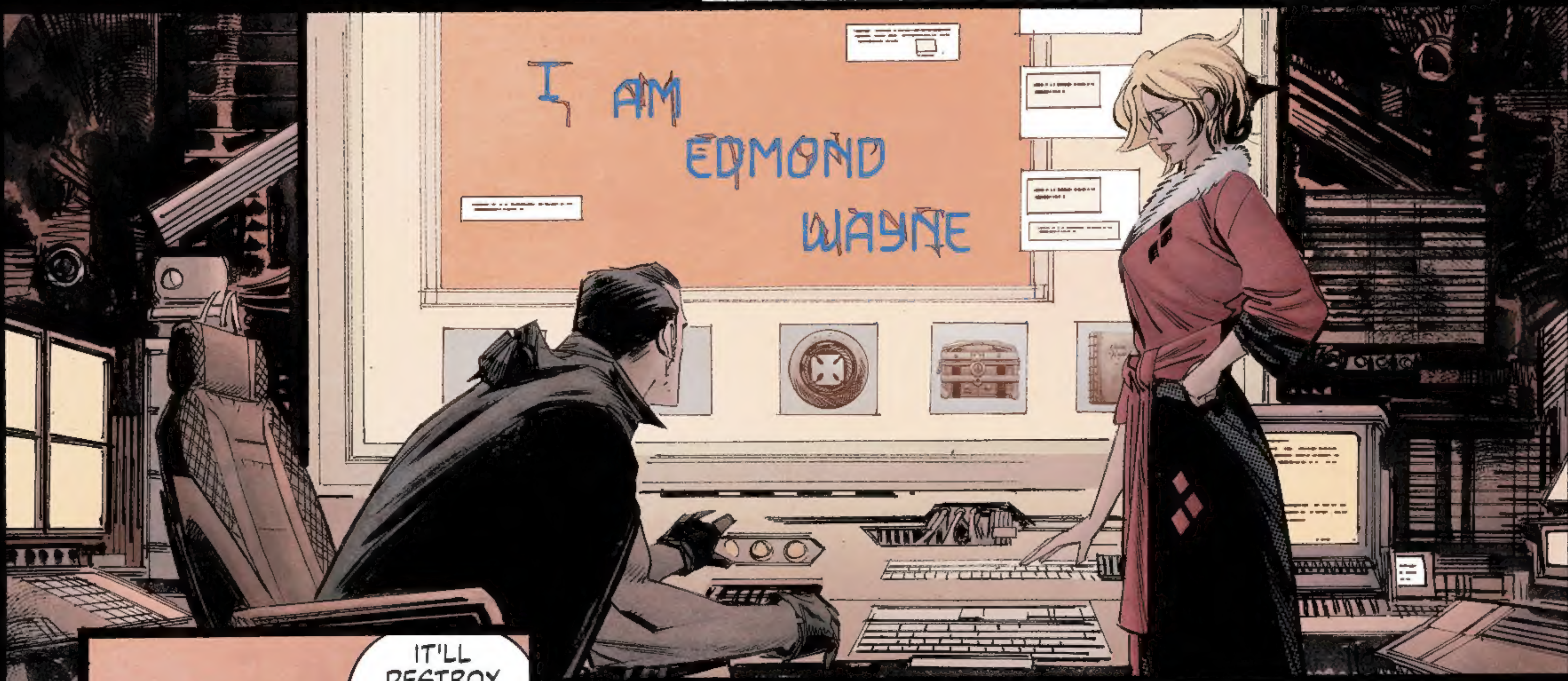
BECAUSE HE
TOOK OFF HIS
MASK AND ASKED
FORGIVENESS.

HE KNEW
THAT IN ORDER TO
HELP GOTHAM YOU
HAD TO TRUST
GOTHAM.

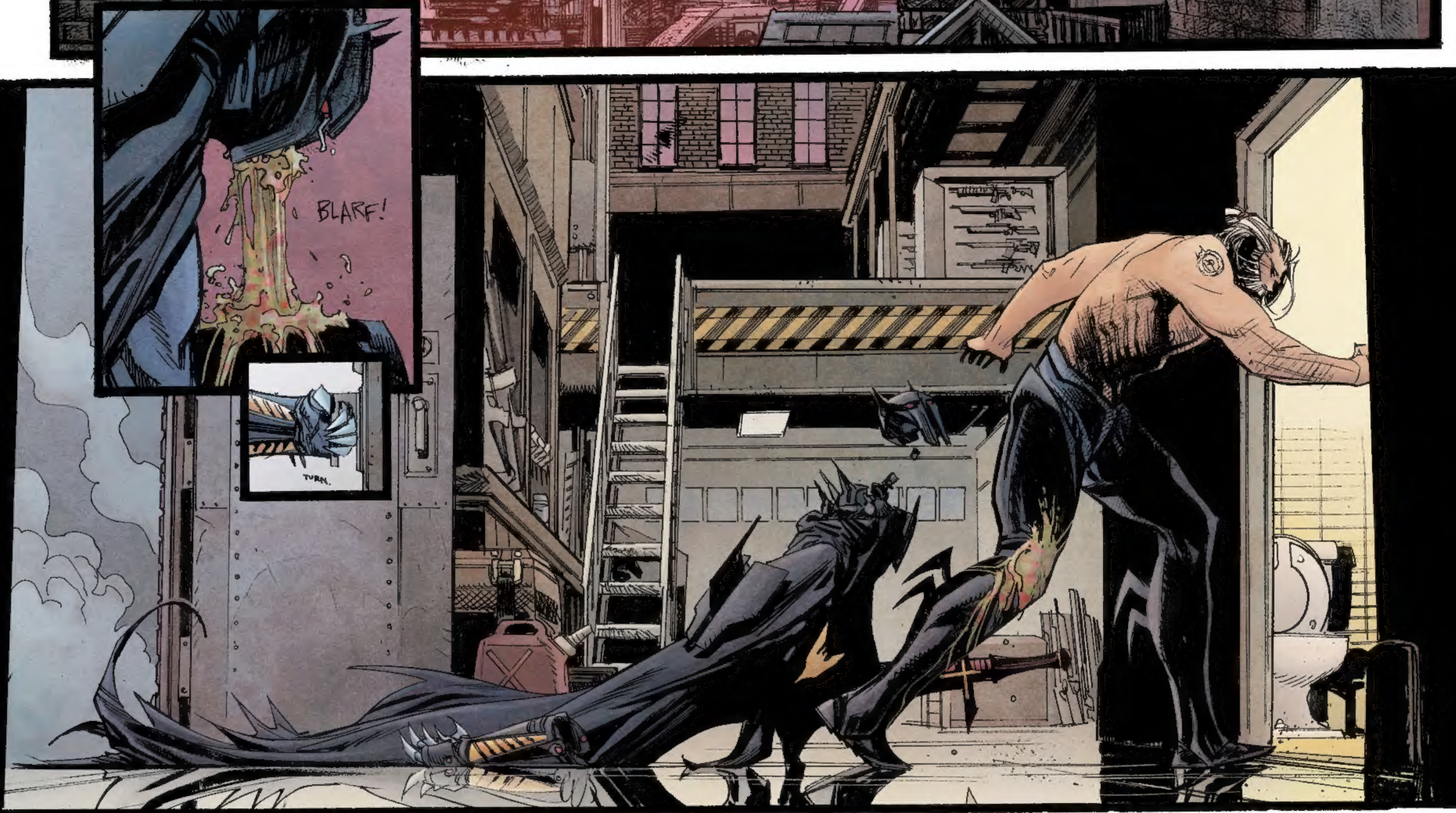
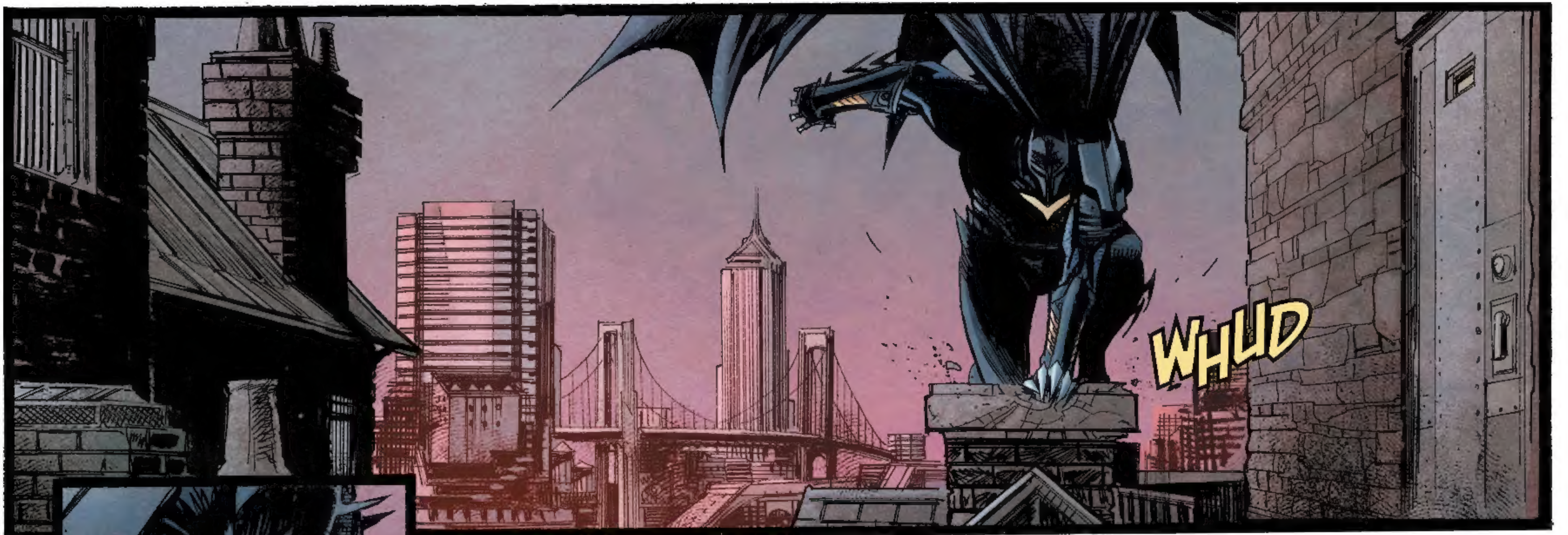


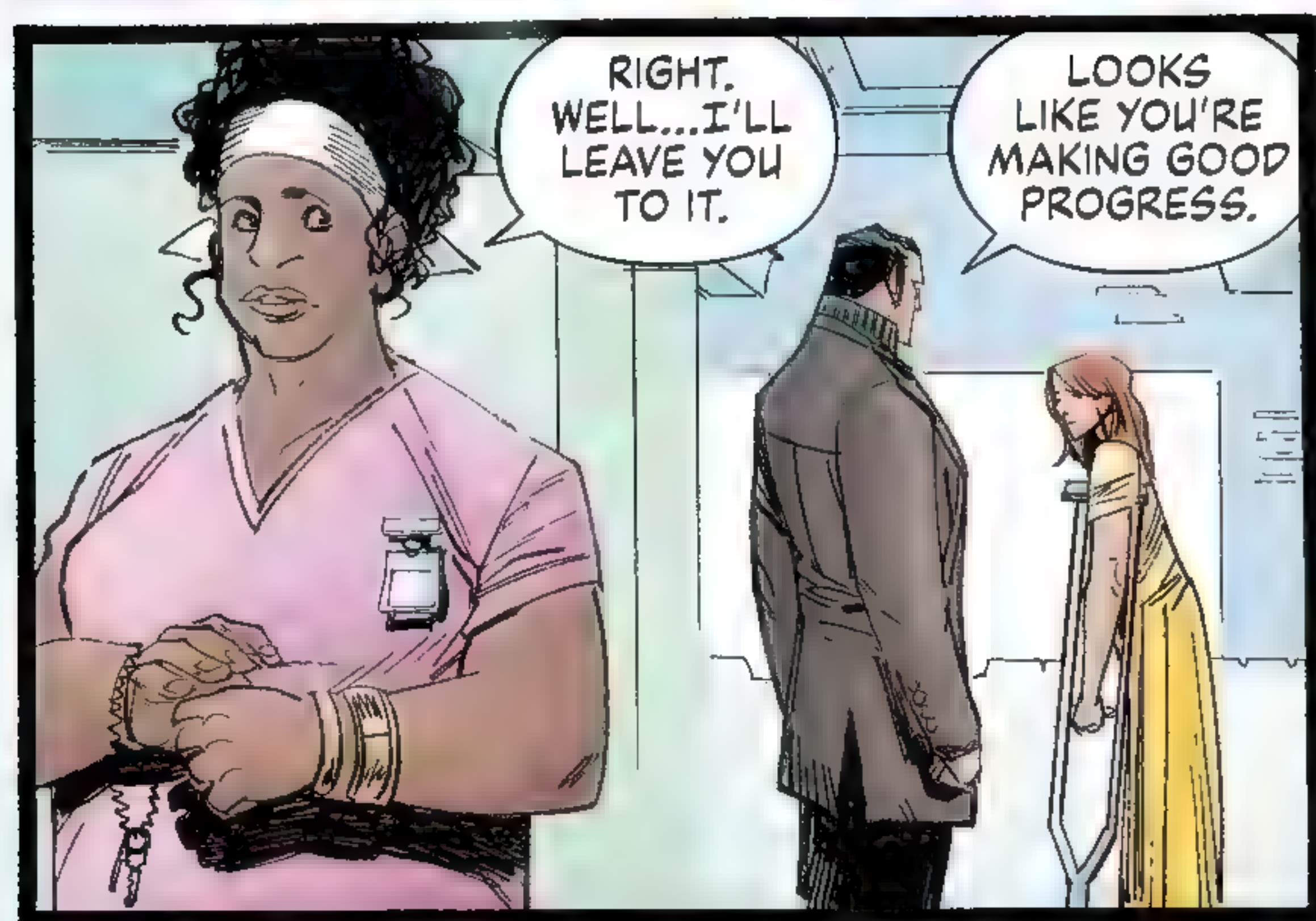
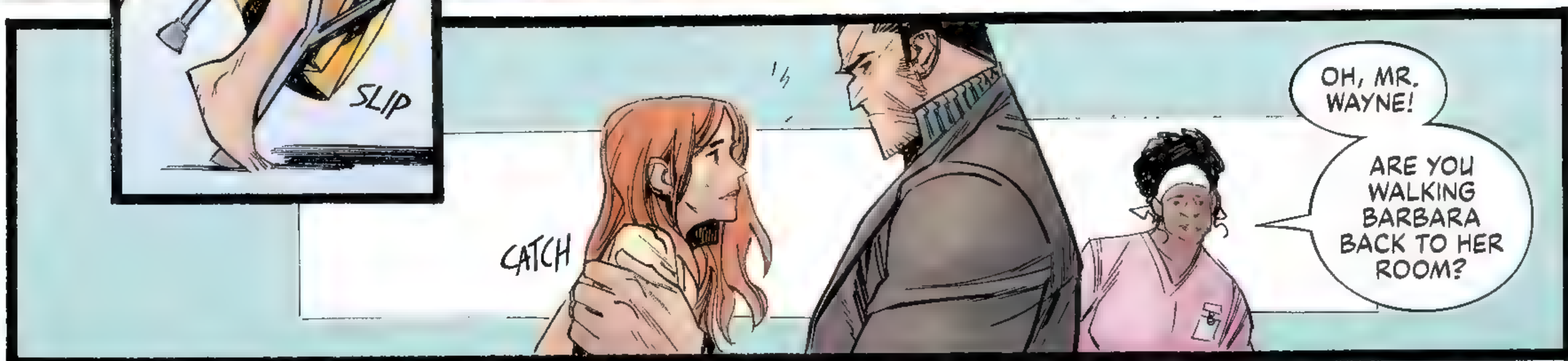
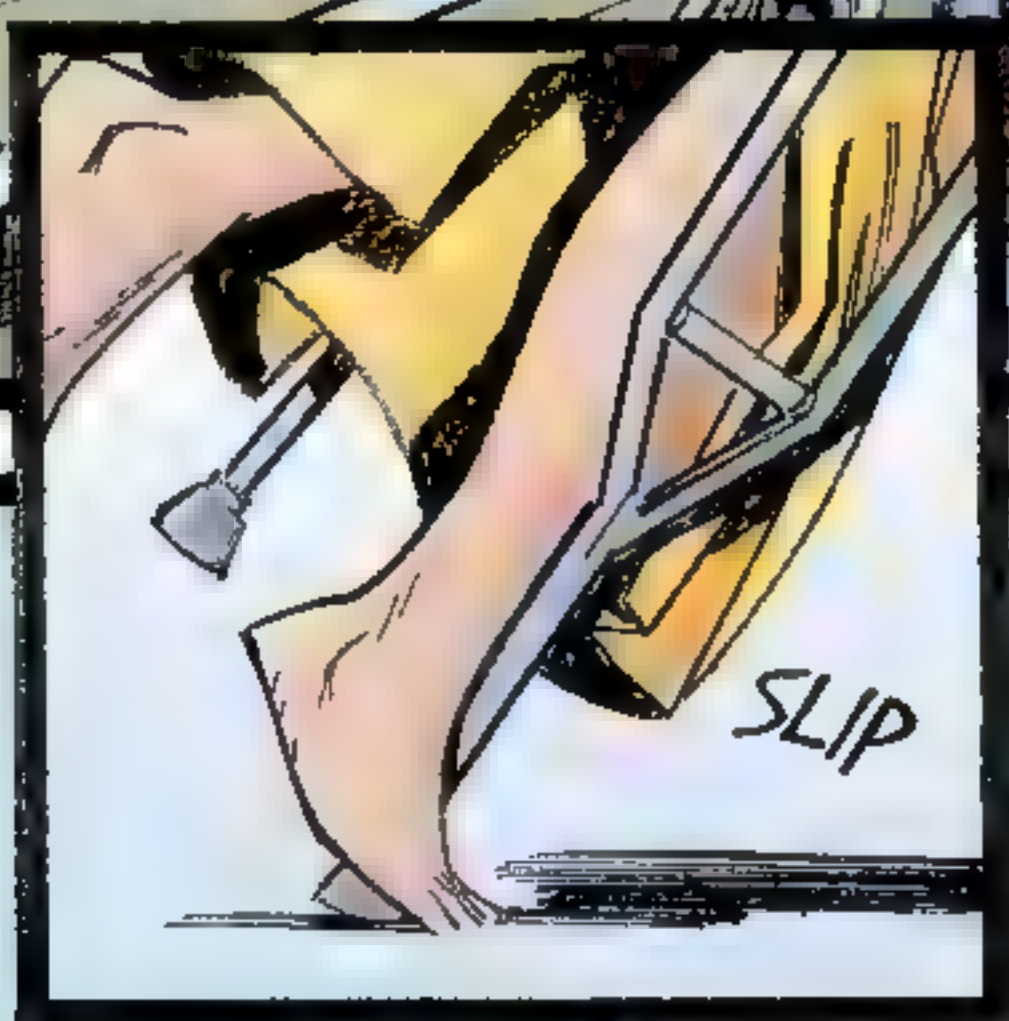
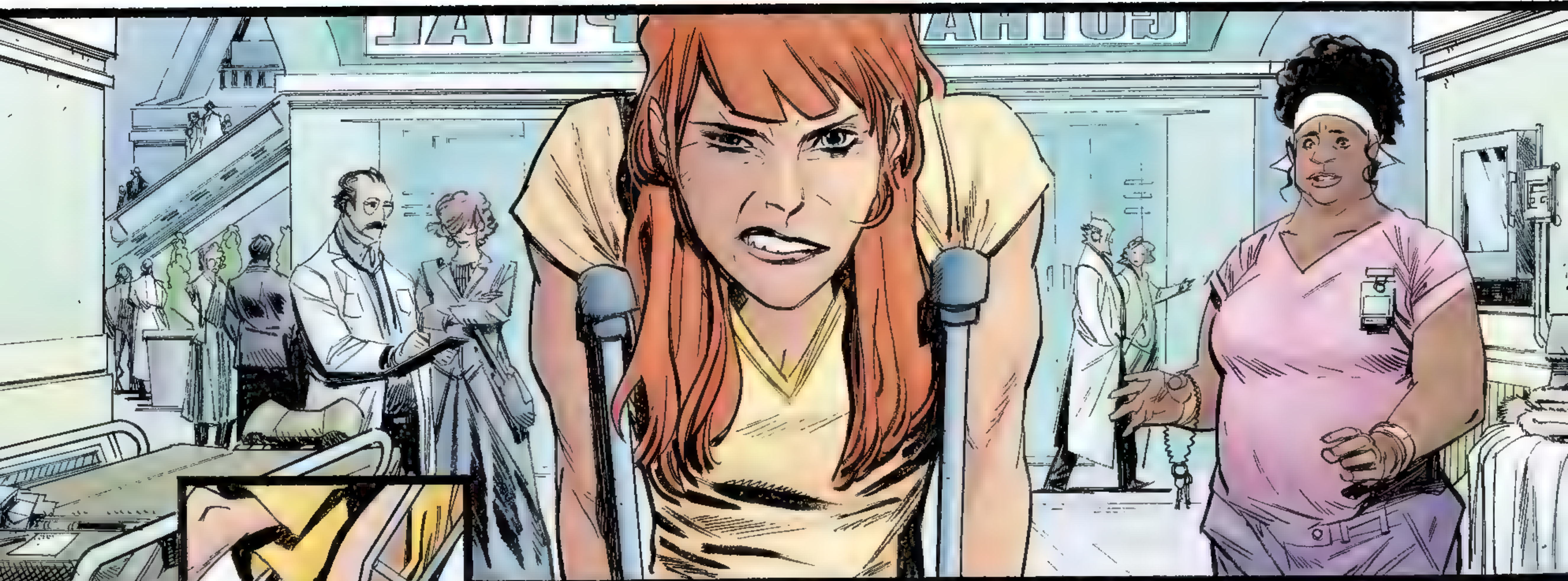
OF
COURSE
I TRUST
GOTHAM.

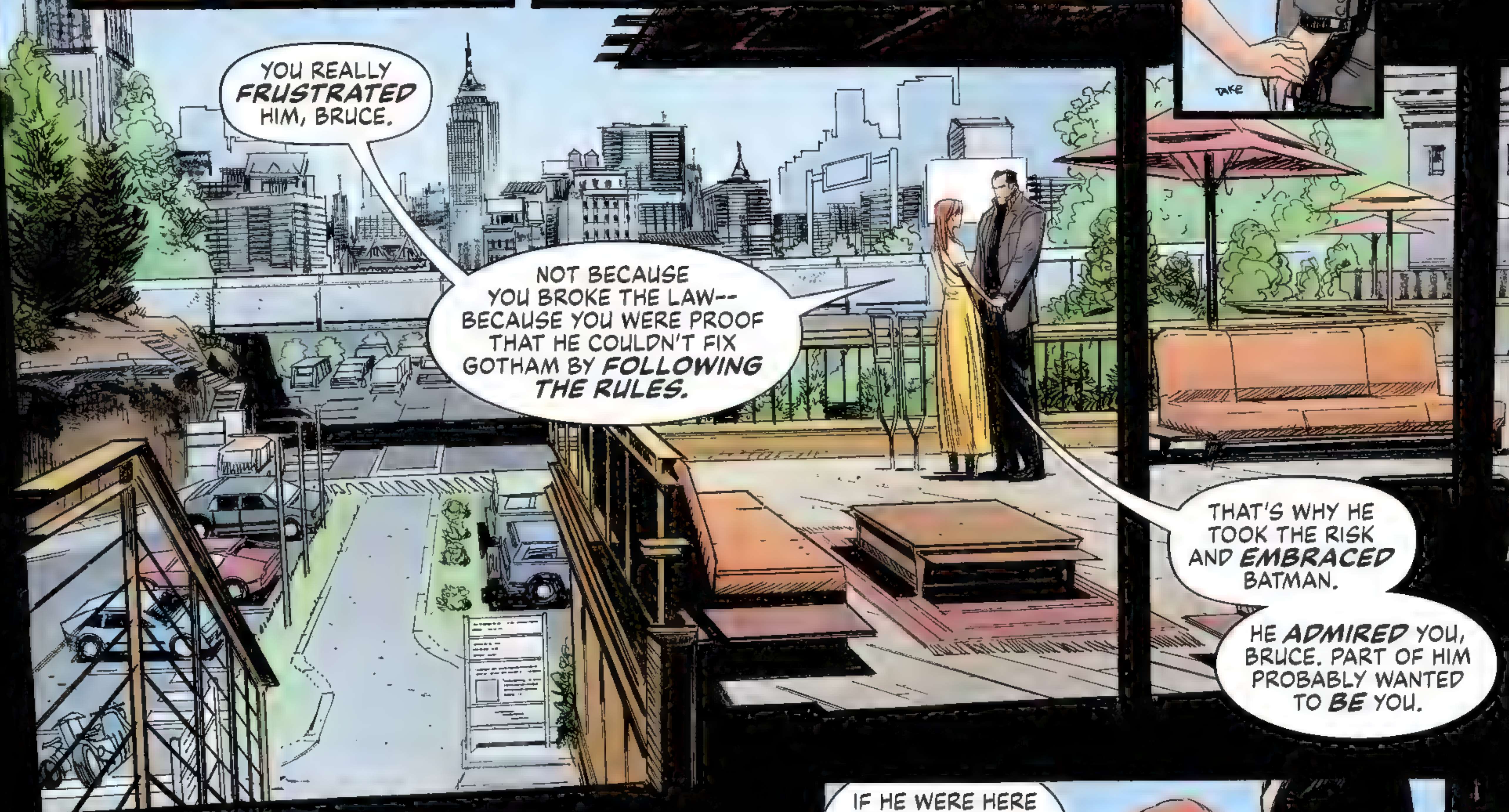
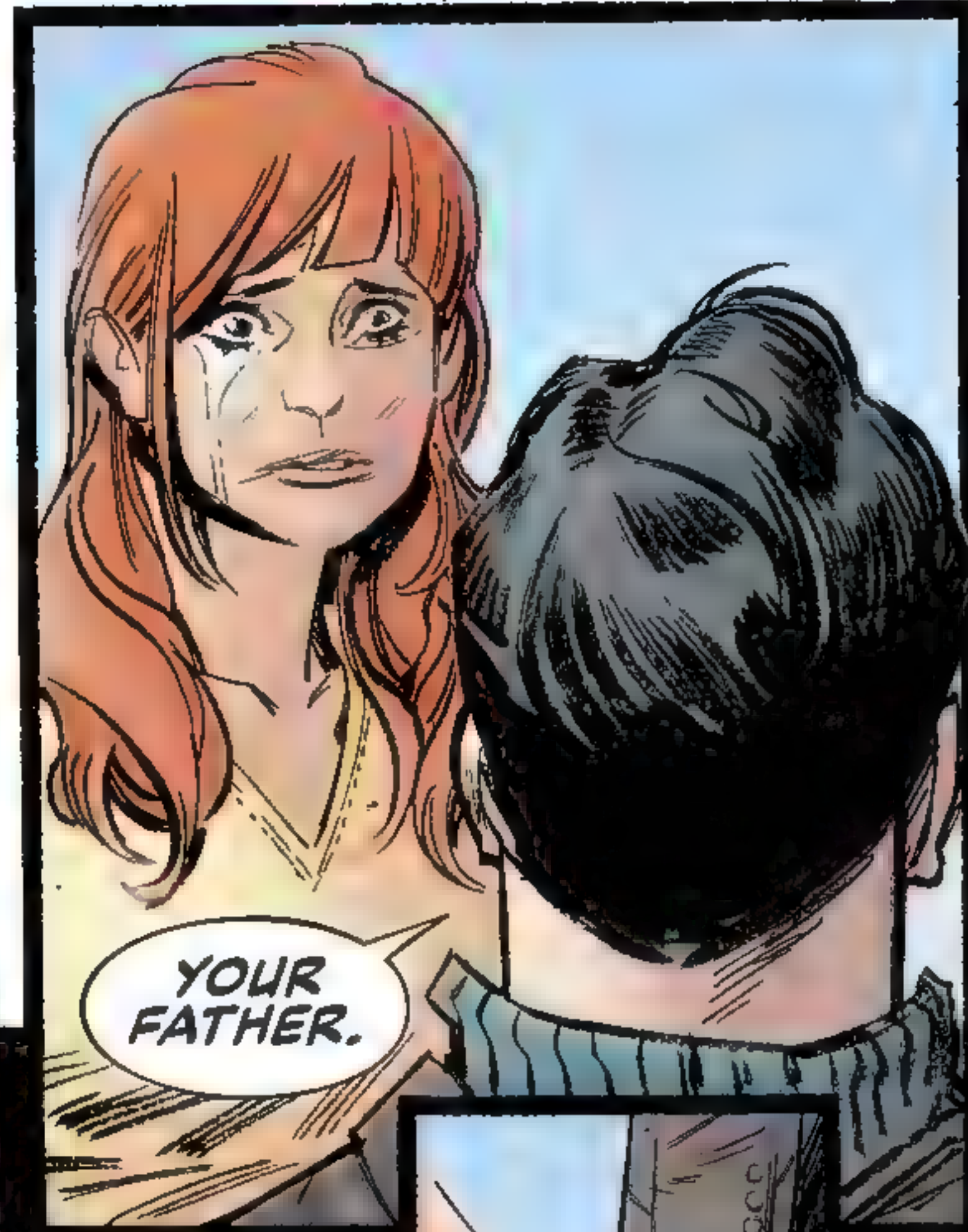
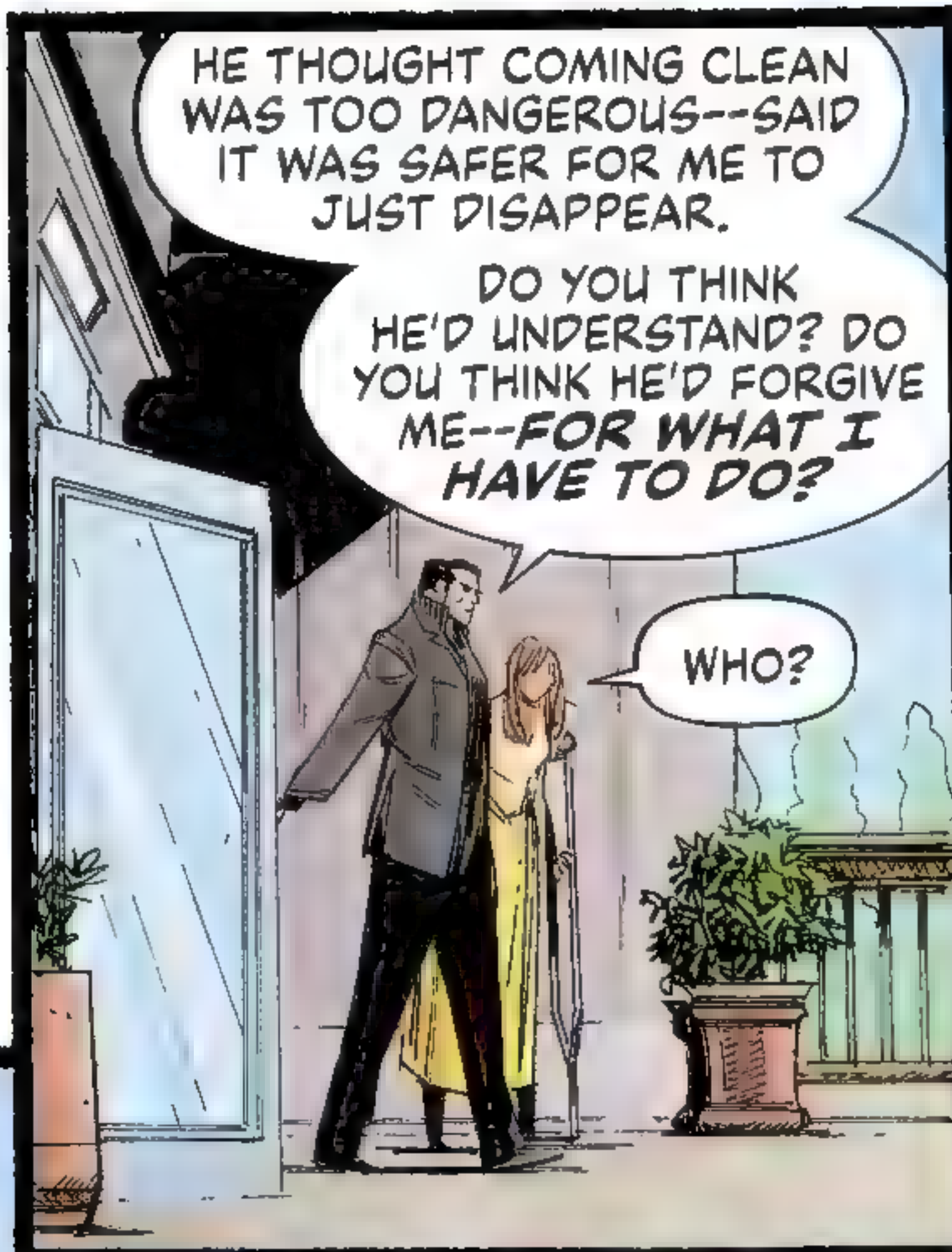
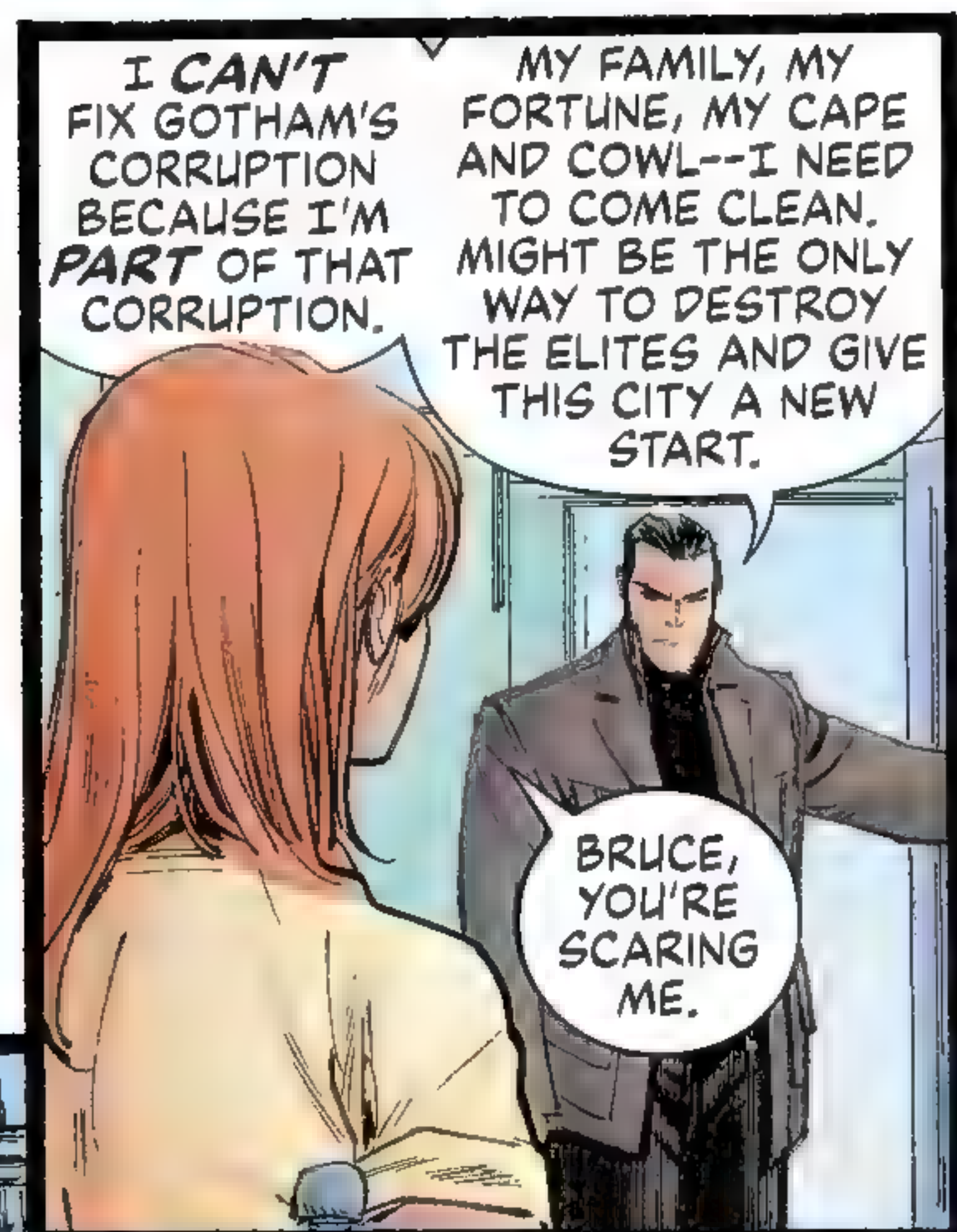
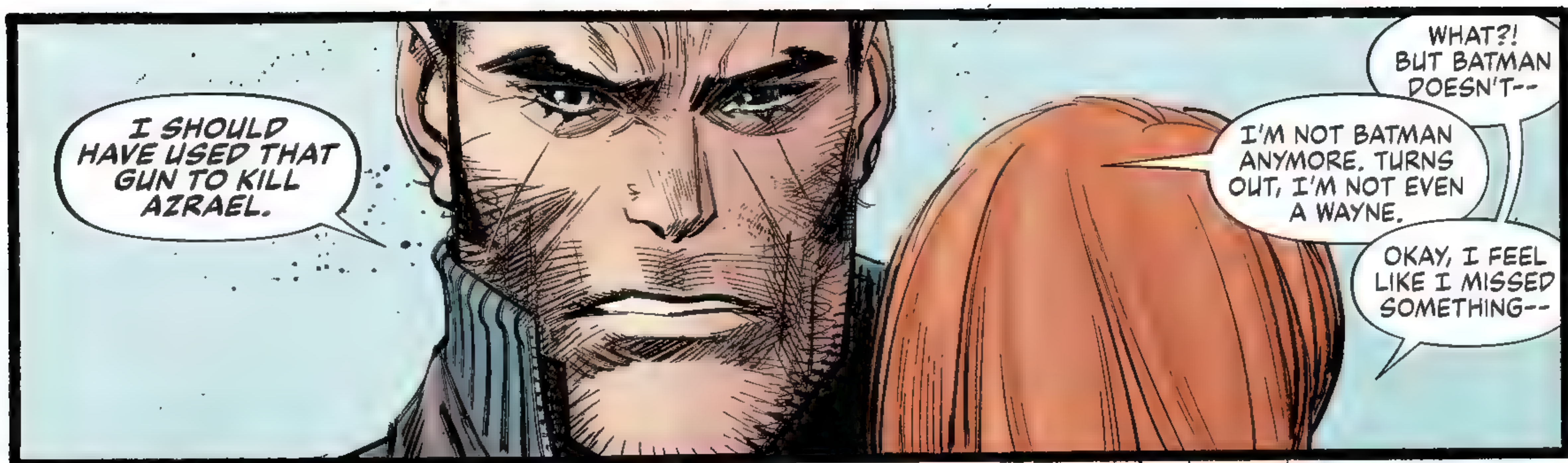
DO
YOU?











THIS IS
COMMISSIONER
MONTROYA, AND I'M
DECLARING A CITY-
WIDE EMERGENCY AS
WE BEGIN A MANHUNT
FOR JEAN-PAUL
VALLEY...

...ALSO
KNOWN AS
AZRAEL.

VALLEY IS WANTED FOR THE DEATHS OF OVER A DOZEN SUPER-CRIMINALS AND 23 POLICE OFFICERS...

...INCLUDING THE
LATE COMMISSIONER
JIM GORDON.

GTO AND POLICE
HOTLINES ARE STANDING
BY FOR ANYONE WHO HAS
INFORMATION ON HIS
WHEREABOUTS.

THE SUSPECT
IS SIX FOOT
SEVEN, WEIGHING
APPROXIMATELY
290 POUNDS AND
CONSIDERED
ARMED
AND--

TSSSSSS
SSSSSSS...!

**PEOPLE OF
GOTHAM.**

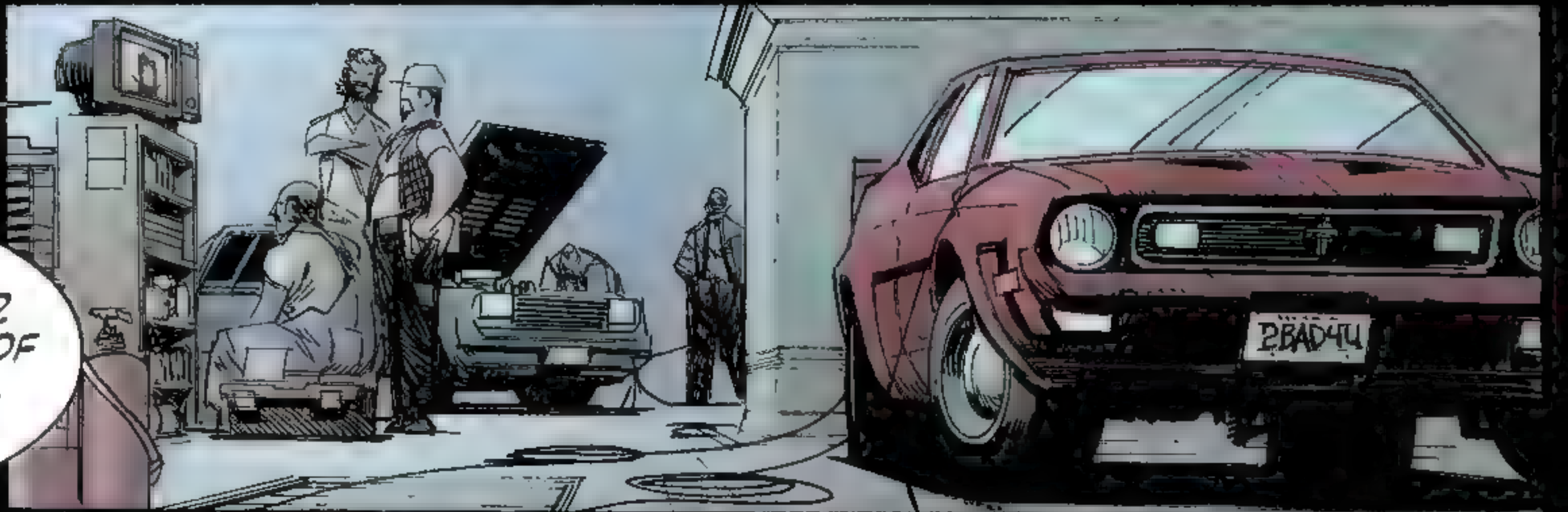


FOR DECADES, IT'S BEEN MY HONOR TO SERVE YOU. FIGHTING CRIME, SAVING LIVES, TRYING TO MAKE THIS A BETTER PLACE.

BUT I KNEW IT COULDN'T GO ON FOREVER--IT'S CLEAR TO ME NOW THAT THE ERA OF BATMAN MUST COME TO AN END.

WEARING THIS CAPE WAS A SIMPLE IDEA, BORN IN A SIMPLER TIME--AT FIRST I JUST WANTED TO HELP CATCH THE BAD GUYS.

BUT OVER THE YEARS THINGS HAVE GOTTEN MORE COMPLICATED. IT'S NO LONGER A CHILDISH GAME OF COPS AND ROBBERS--IT'S SERIAL KILLERS, MONSTERS, AND SUPER-CRIMINALS.

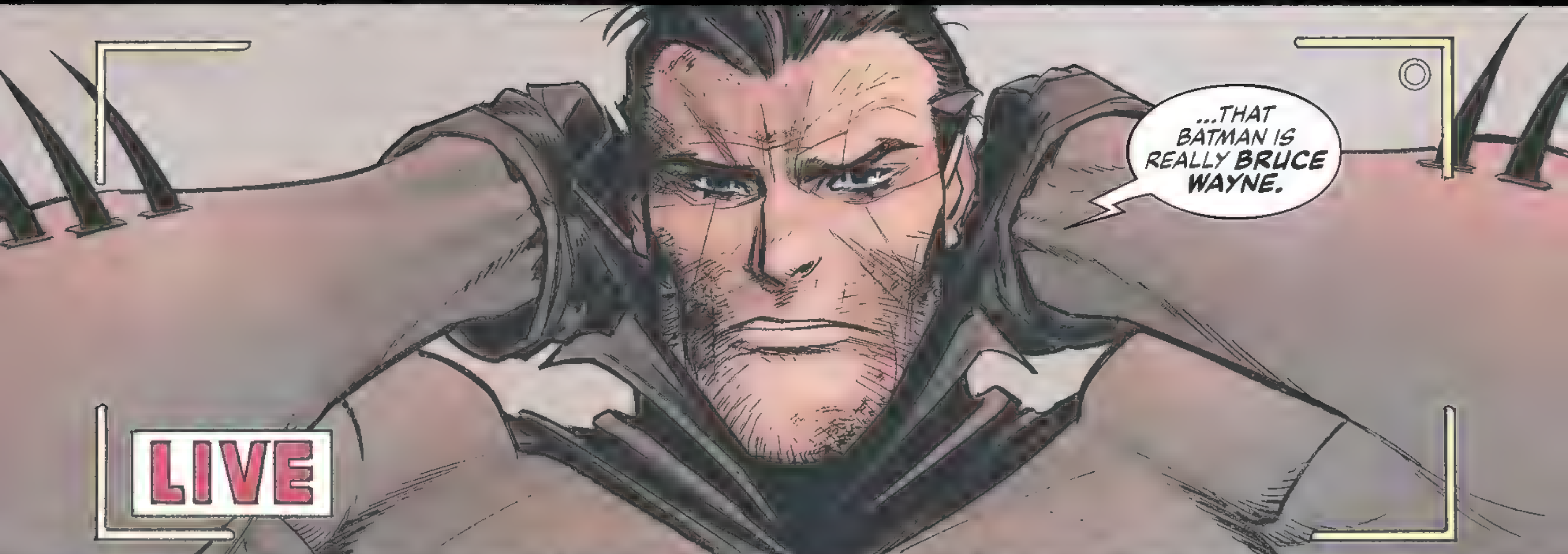
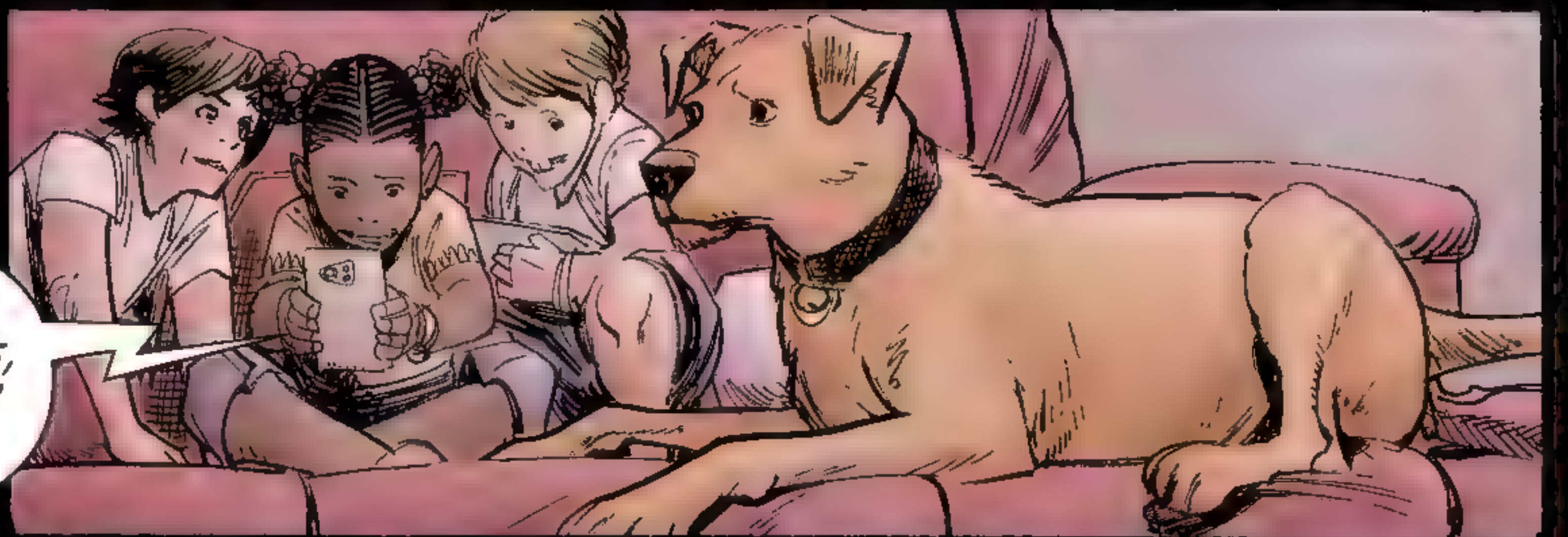


WHEN I STARTED OUT, ALL I NEEDED TO CATCH THEM WAS ROPE AND HANDCUFFS, BUT NOW I'M A ONE-MAN ARMY WHO DOES AS MUCH DAMAGE TO YOU AS I DO TO THEM. I USED TO BE A HERO FROM THE GOLDEN AGE, BUT NOW I'M A VILLAIN.

AND THAT'S WHY JACK NAPIER BEAT ME, BY SAYING WHAT I WAS AFRAID TO ADMIT.

THAT'S WHY I'M SUPPORTING THE NAPIER INITIATIVE.

BEING BATMAN MEANS BEING WHATEVER GOTHAM NEEDS ME TO BE, AND WHAT YOU ALL NEED NOW IS TO KNOW THE TRUTH...



...THAT BATMAN IS REALLY BRUCE WAYNE.

I RECENTLY LEARNED THAT THE WAYNE EMPIRE HAS BEEN HIJACKED BY THOSE WHO HAVE CORRUPTED GOTHAM THE MOST--BY THE ELITES.

WHICH MAKES ME COMPLICIT IN THEIR CRIMES, WHICH MAKES ME EVEN MORE RESPONSIBLE FOR CRIMINALS LIKE JOKER AND AZRAEL.



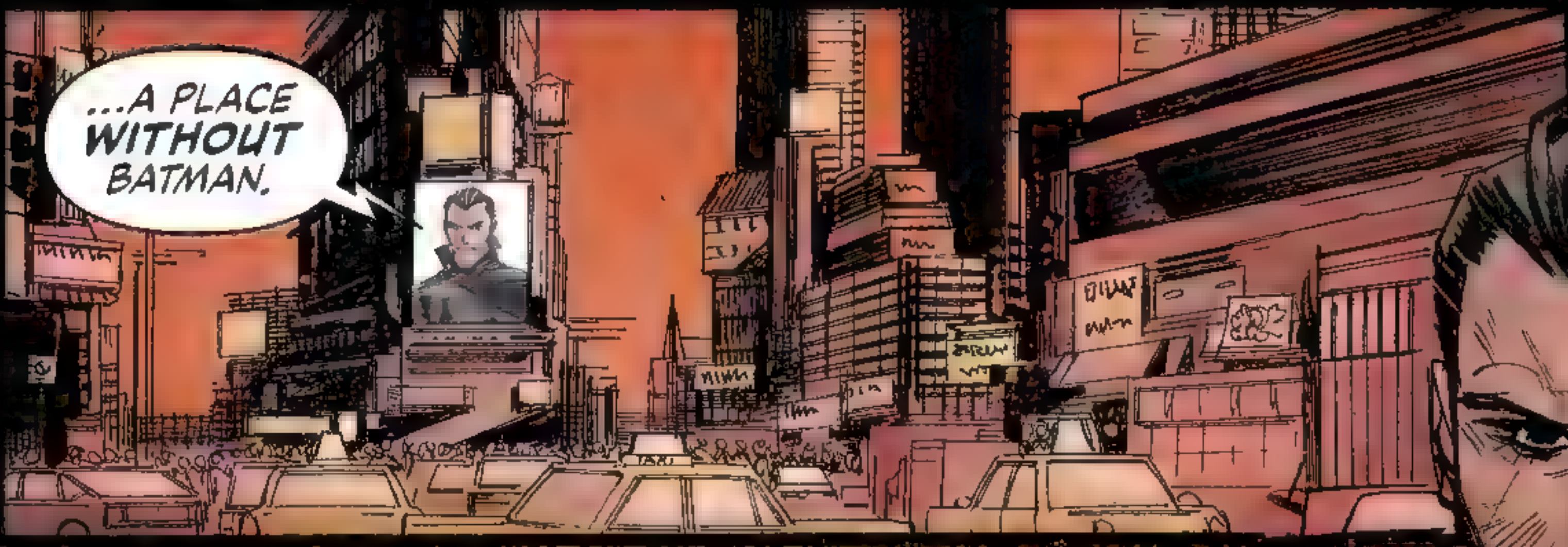


THAT'S WHY I'M GIVING IT ALL AWAY--TO DESTROY THE ELITES AND GIVE GOTHAM BACK TO THE PEOPLE. MY FORTUNE DOESN'T BELONG TO ME--IT BELONGS TO YOU.

WAYNECORP AND ALL OF ITS SUBSIDIARIES WILL BE DISSOLVED.

MY ENTIRE INHERITANCE WILL BE PUT INTO A NONPROFIT THAT WILL CREATE BETTER SCHOOLS, LIBRARIES, HOMELESS SHELTERS, AND SCHOLARSHIPS. EVERYTHING WE GENERATE WILL BE DONATED RIGHT BACK TO GOTHAM, OFFSETTING YOUR TAXES FOR DECADES.

GOTHAM WILL NO LONGER BE A CITY OF DARKNESS-- IT WILL BE A CITY OF LIGHT. IT WILL BE A PLACE WITHOUT SHADOWS...



...A PLACE WITHOUT BATMAN.

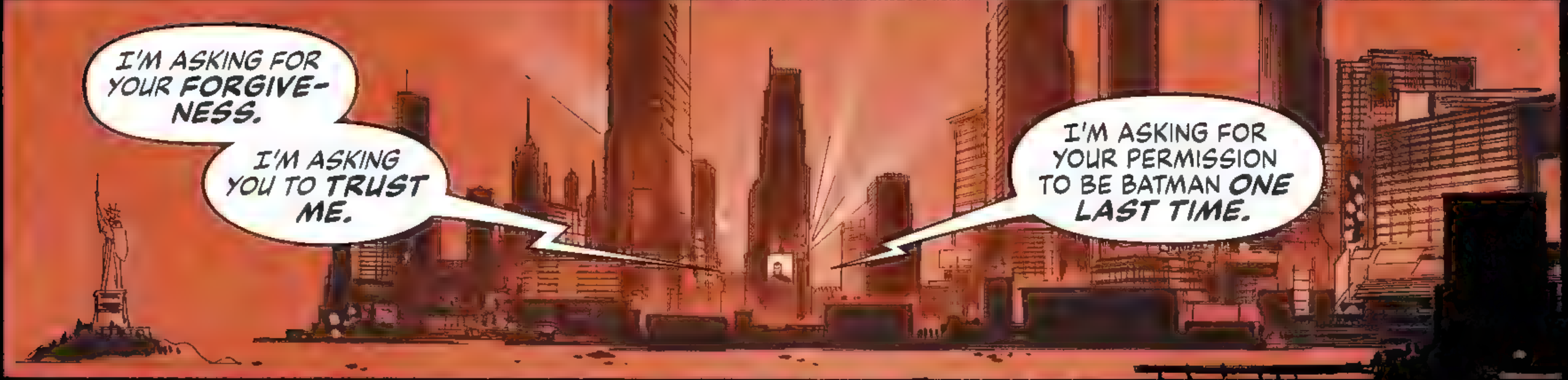
BUT FIRST, I NEED A FAVOR.

AZRAEL'S STILL OUT THERE. AS SOON AS THE SUN GOES DOWN, HE'LL MAKE HIS MOVE.



I CAN GET HIM. BUT I DON'T WANT ANYONE ELSE GETTING HURT.

THAT'S WHY I'M ASKING YOU ALL TO **STAY OFF THE STREETS** UNTIL I CAN CATCH HIM.



I'M ASKING FOR YOUR FORGIVENESS.

I'M ASKING YOU TO **TRUST ME.**

I'M ASKING FOR YOUR PERMISSION TO BE BATMAN **ONE LAST TIME.**



YOU JUST CAN'T
HELP YOURSELF,
CAN YOU?

MAKING DECISIONS
ALONE AND FORCING
US TO FALL IN LINE
BEHIND YOU!



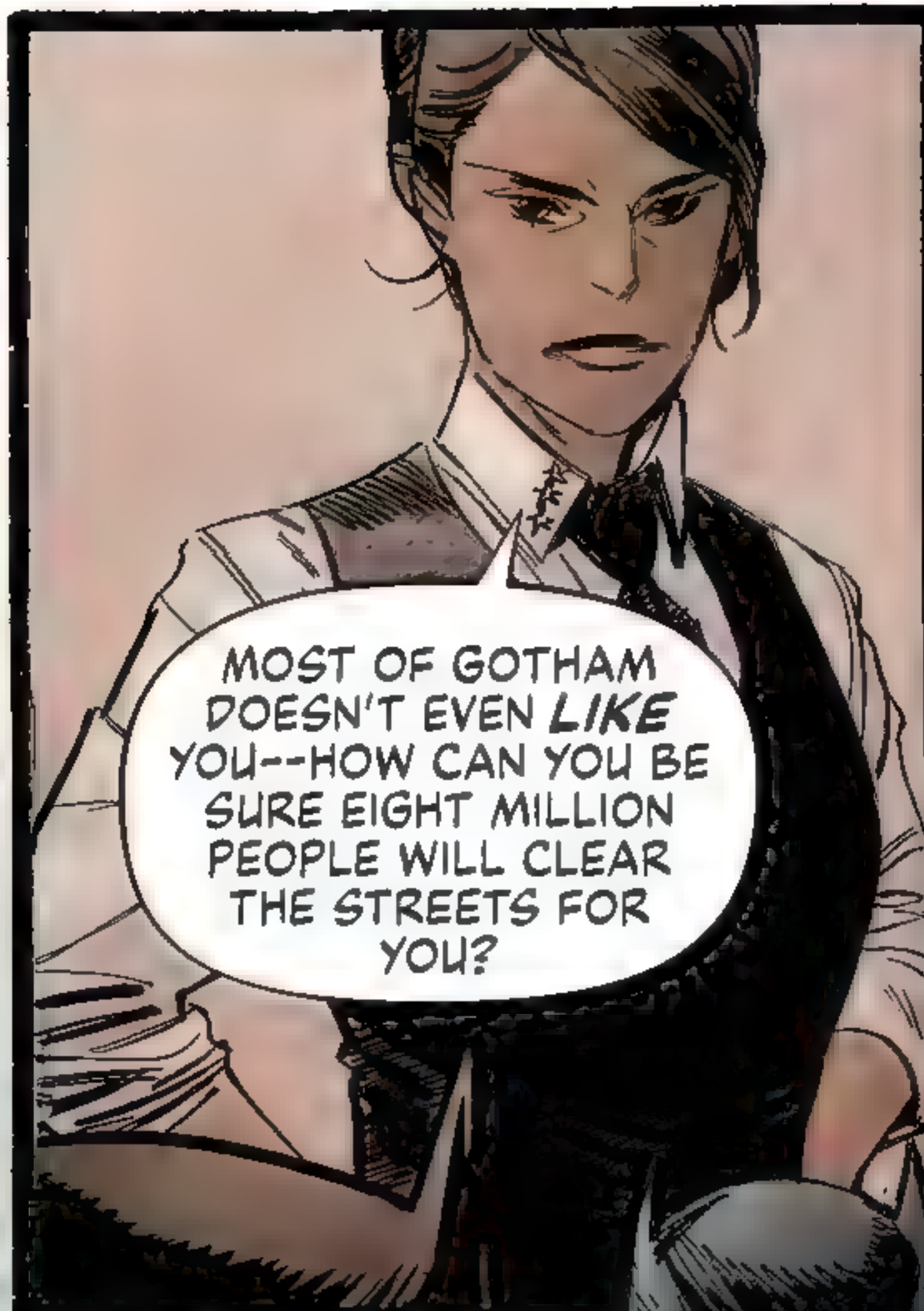
I STARTED
THIS. AND
NOW I NEED
TO END IT.

I'M NOT INTERESTED
IN **ALLEVIATING YOUR
GUILT**--GORDON GAVE ME
A JOB TO DO, AND I DON'T
NEED YOU INTERFERING
LIKE THAT!



YOU WANT TO ARREST AZRAEL
WITHOUT PEOPLE GETTING HURT?
YOU WANT TO STOP THE ELITES?
YOU WANT TO GET RID
OF BATMAN?

THEN
**THIS IS
THE BEST
PLAN.**



MOST OF GOTHAM
DOESN'T EVEN **LIKE**
YOU--HOW CAN YOU BE
SURE EIGHT MILLION
PEOPLE WILL CLEAR
THE STREETS FOR
YOU?



I KNOW
IT'S A
RISK.

BUT IF
THEY CLEAR THE
STREETS THEN I'LL
KNOW **THEY'RE
WITH ME.**



AND WHEN IT'S
OVER, I'LL TURN
MYSELF IN.

IN GOTHAM,
NO ONE IS ABOVE
THE LAW.

**INCLUDING
ME.**



WE NEED UNITS
STATIONED AT
EVERY HOSPITAL
IN GOTHAM.

WITH RUTH DEAD,
AZRAEL WILL NEED A NEW
SOURCE OF MEDICATION,
SO THOSE WILL LIKELY
BE HIS TARGETS.

WAY
AHEAD OF
YOU.



WE NEED TO CLOSE
DOWN THE AIRPORTS,
SUBWAYS, AND ANY ROAD
LEADING OUT OF
GOTHAM.

ON IT.

KEEP AN
EYE ON EVERY
SECURITY CAMERA
THROUGHOUT
THE CITY.

GOT A
BUNCH OF KIDS
IN **BACKPORT**--
TURNED NAPIER'S
LIBRARY INTO A
COMMAND
CENTER.



HOW ABOUT
YOU--SURE YOU'RE
UP FOR THIS?

I CAN
STEP ON A GAS
PEDAL, IF THAT'S
WHAT YOU'RE
ASKING.

GOOD.



AND
WHAT'LL YOU
BE DOING?



I'LL
BE IN THE
BATMOBILE.

AZRAEL
DESTROYED MOST
OF THEM WHEN HE
ATTACKED THE GTO.
SO THERE'S ONLY
ONE LEFT.



THIS ONE'S
ALWAYS BEEN MY
FAVORITE.

AZRAEL'S
SUIT IS STATE OF
THE ART, AND THAT
THING IS DECADES
OLD.

ARE YOU
NUTS?



LET'S GET
NUTS.

BA-VROOM

BRUCE,
WAIT.

WHAT
HAPPENS WHEN
YOU CATCH
AZRAEL?

ARE YOU GOING TO
BRING HIM IN SAFELY
AND LET HIM SERVE HIS
TIME? OR DO YOU HAVE
SOMETHING *ELSE*
IN MIND?

WHAT
ARE YOU
SAYING?

YOU KNOW
WHAT I'M
SAYING.

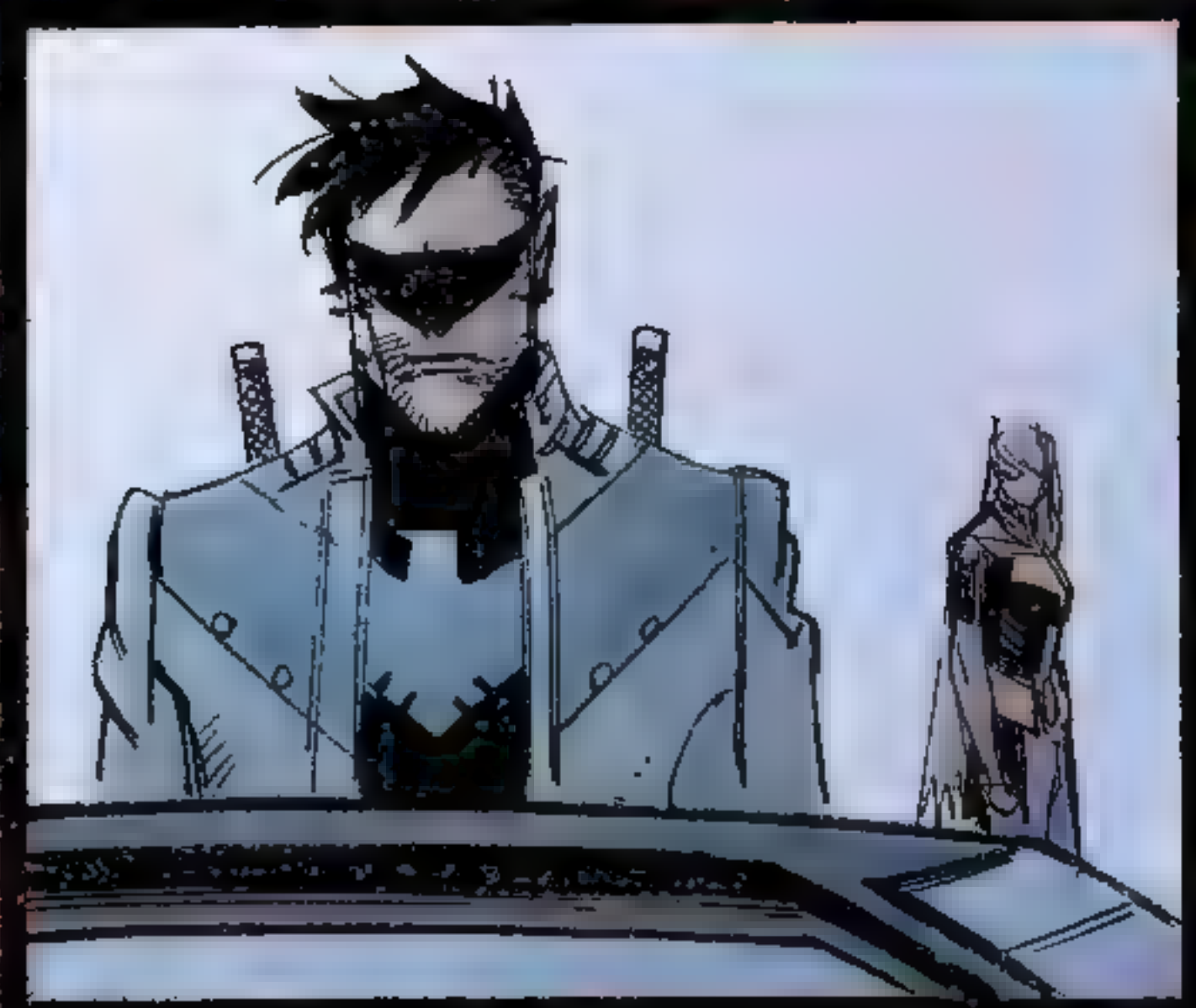
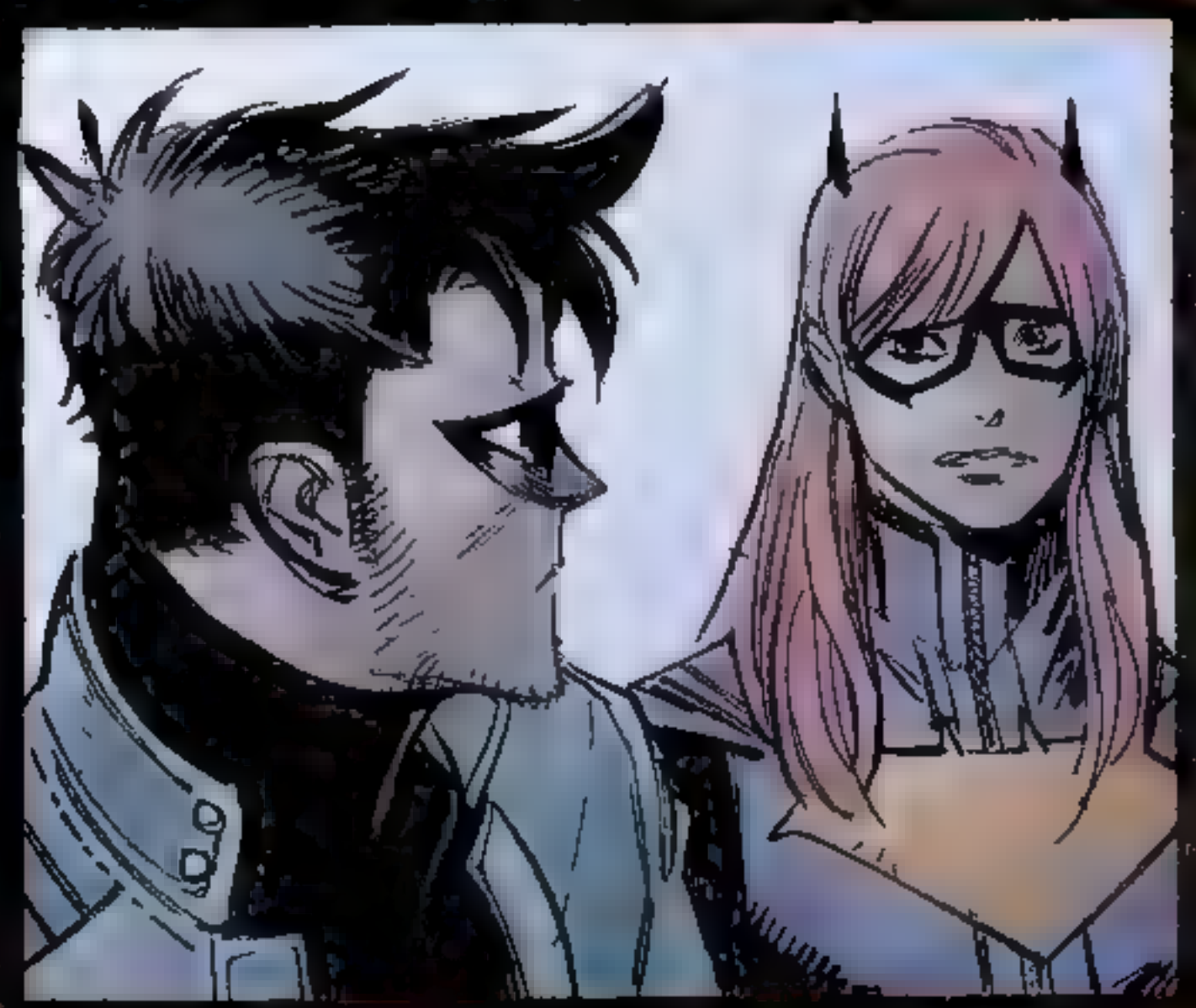
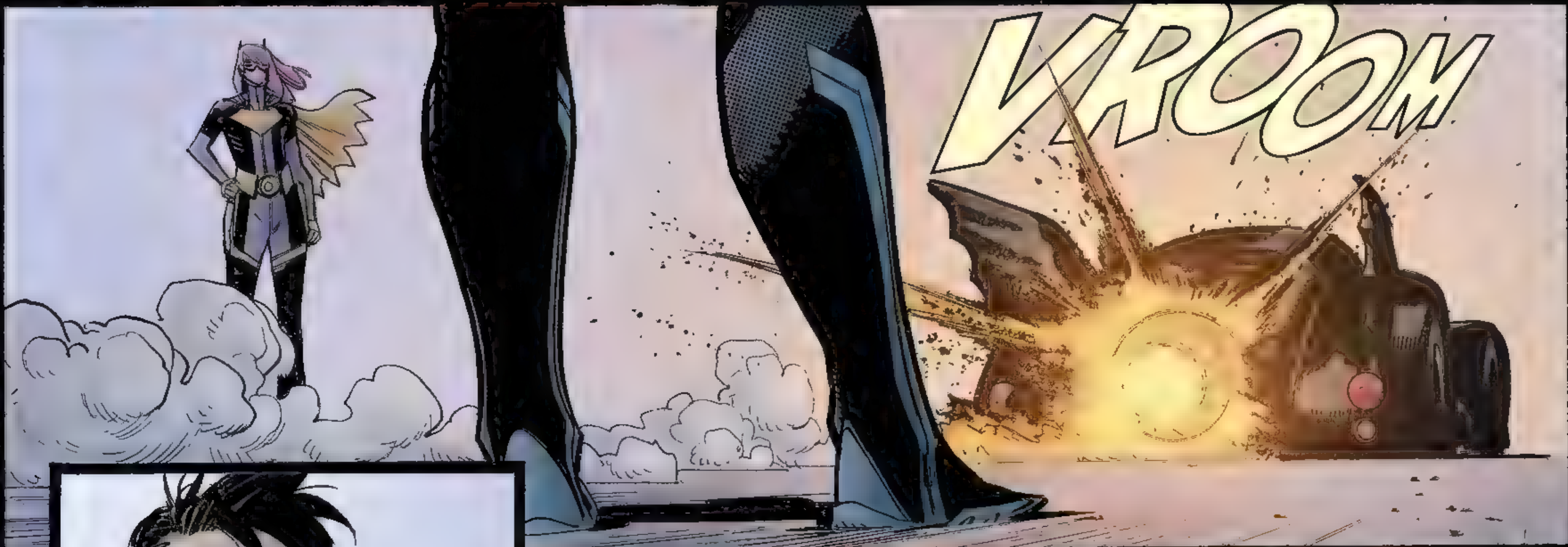
THAT'S
WHAT I
THOUGHT.

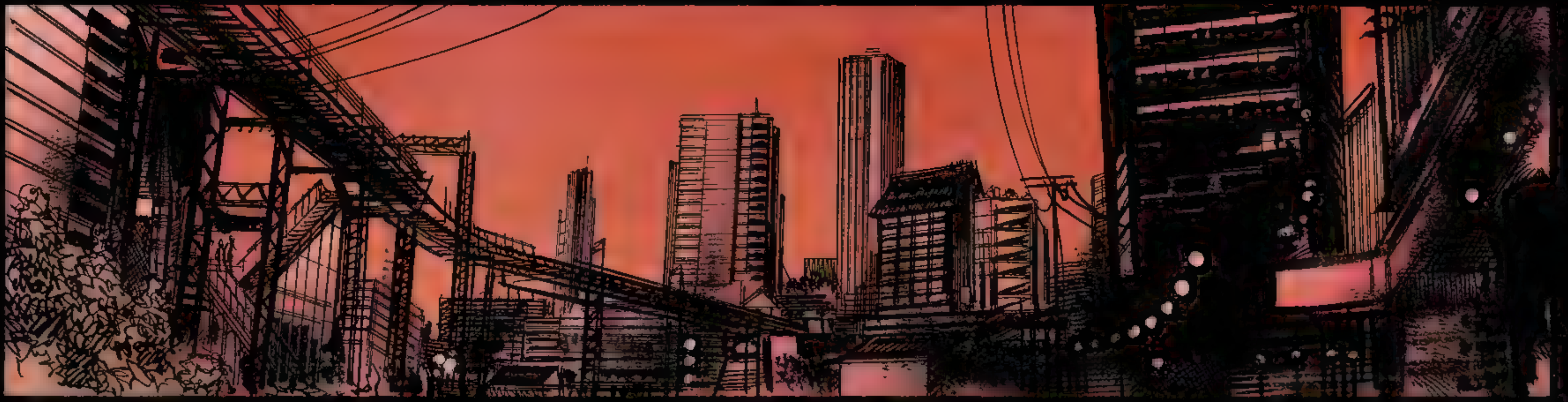
...

IT'S NOT
WORTH IT, BRUCE.
YOU WON'T BE ABLE
TO LIVE WITH YOUR-
SELF. **BATMAN**
DOESN'T
KILL.

BATMAN'S
DEAD...

...AND SO
IS AZRAEL.





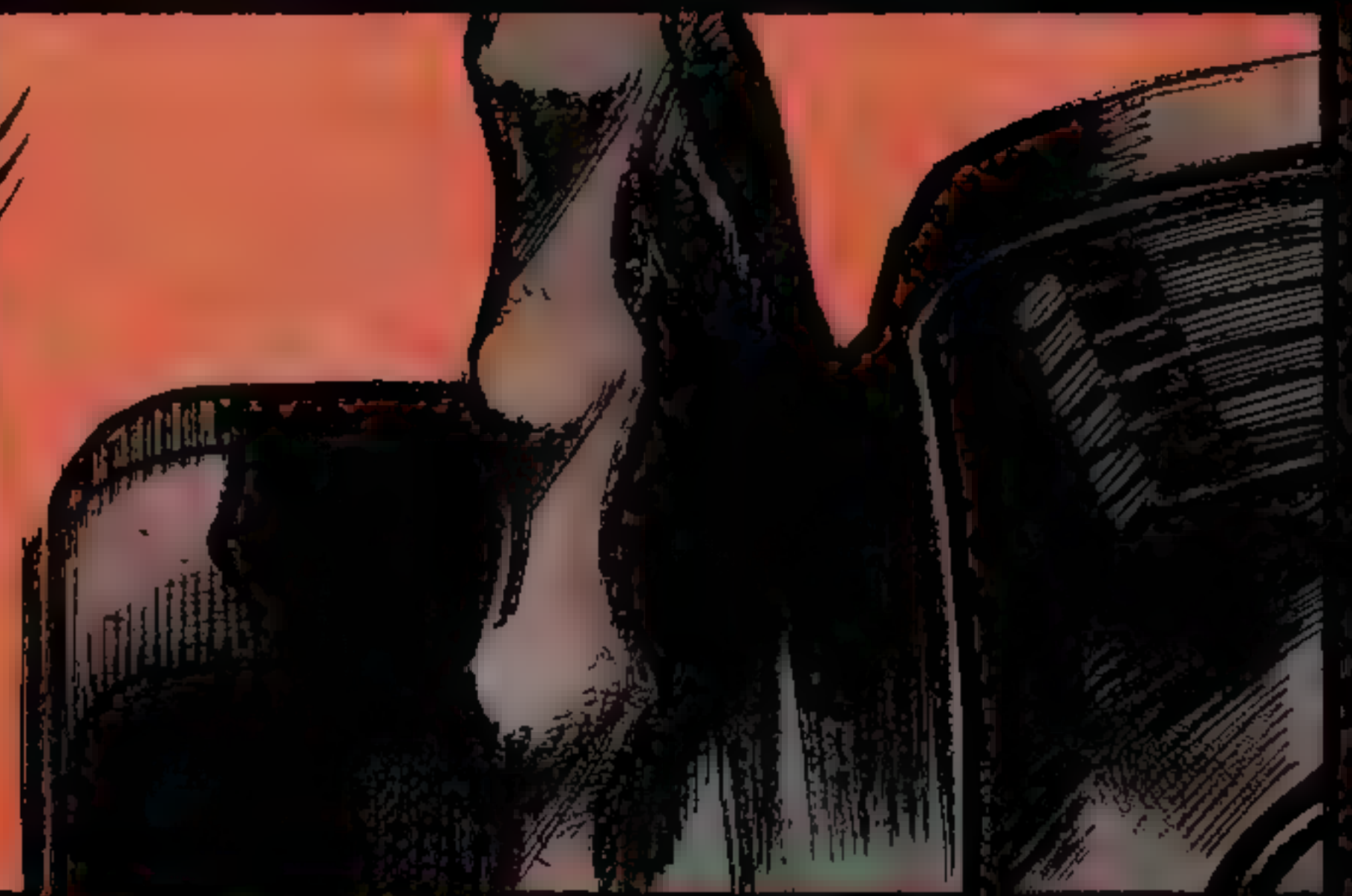
I'M ASKING
FOR YOUR
FORGIVENESS...



...I'M ASKING
YOU TO TRUST
ME...



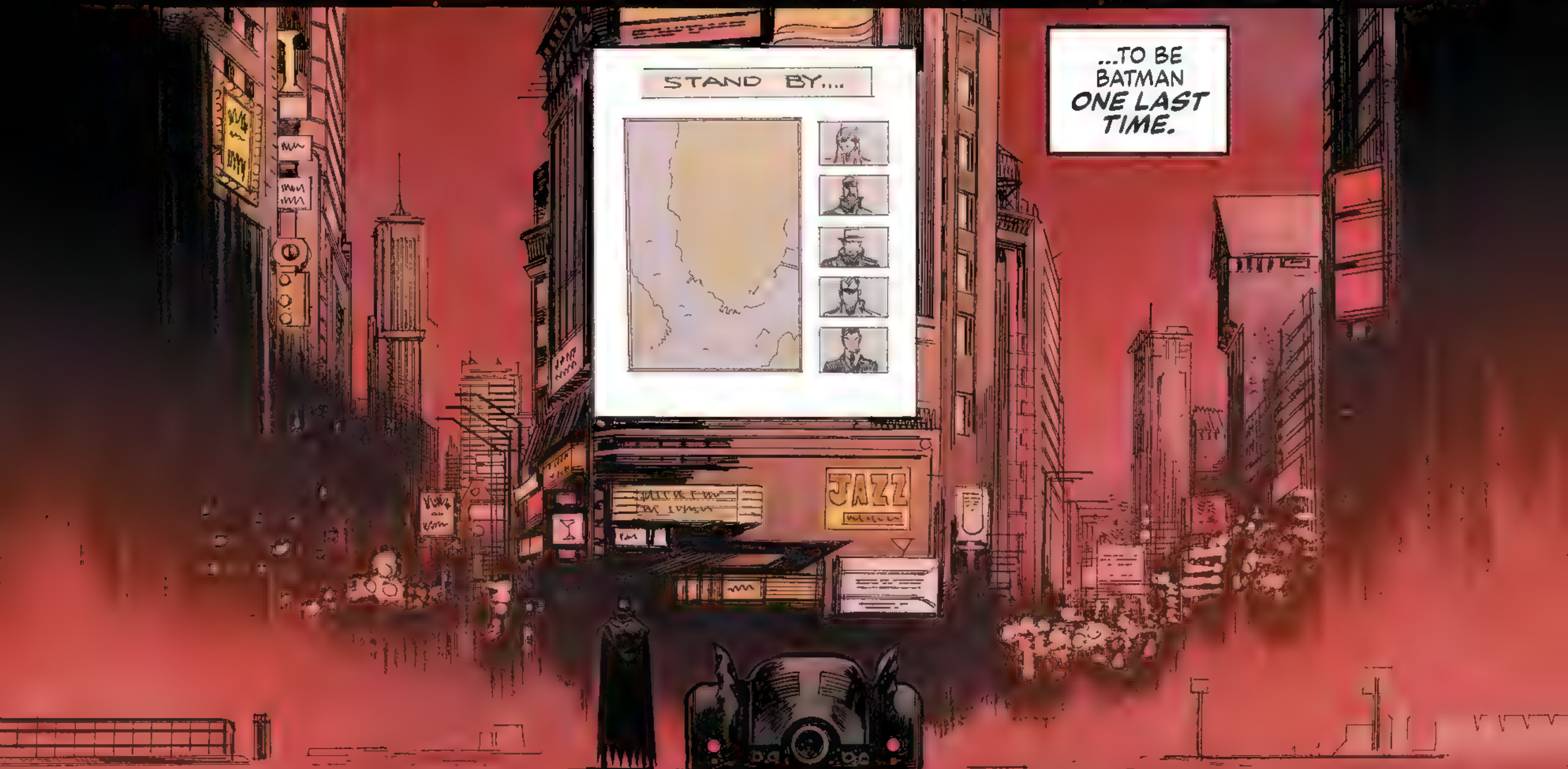
...I'M ASKING
FOR YOUR
PERMISSION...



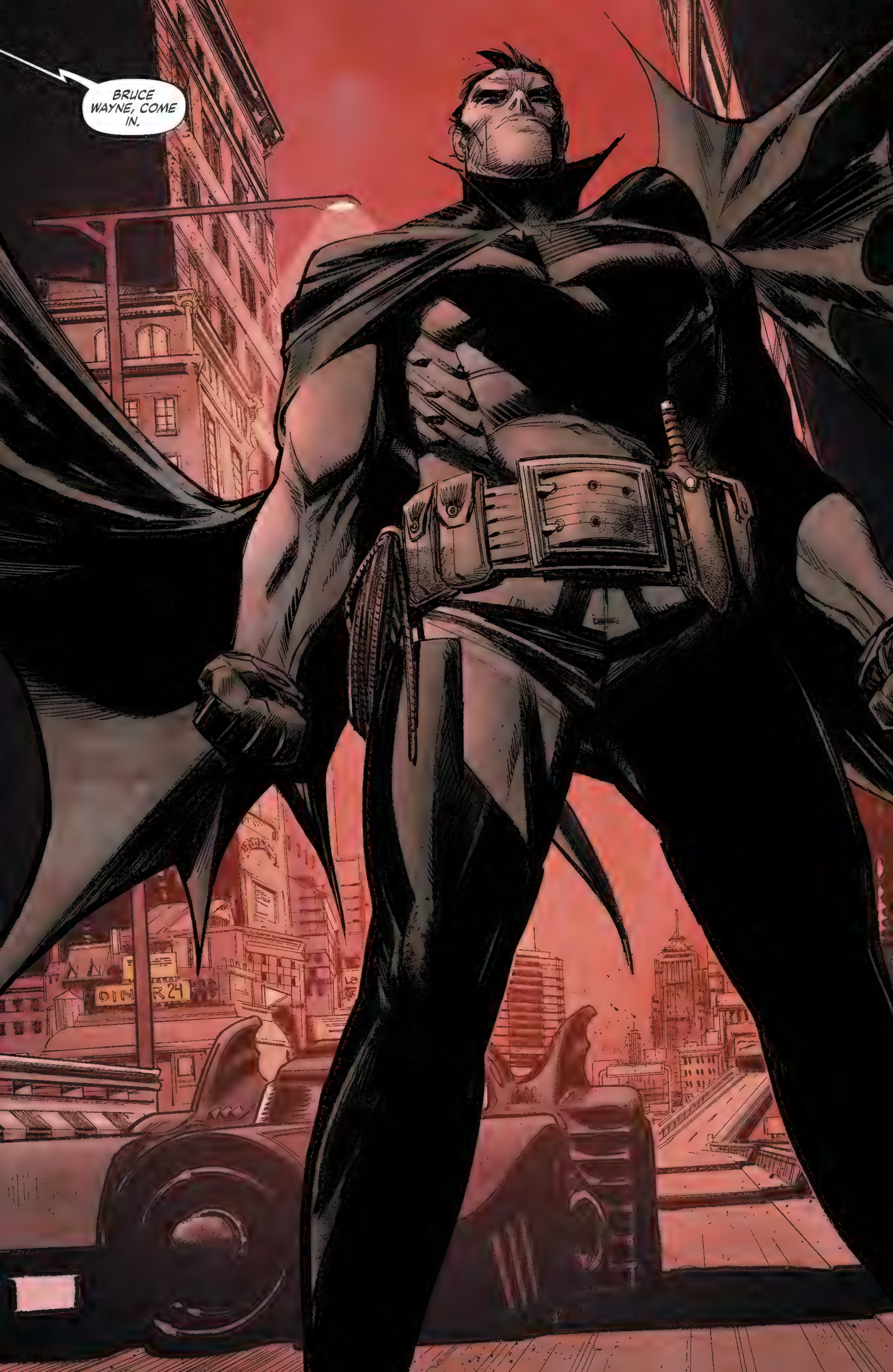
STAND BY...

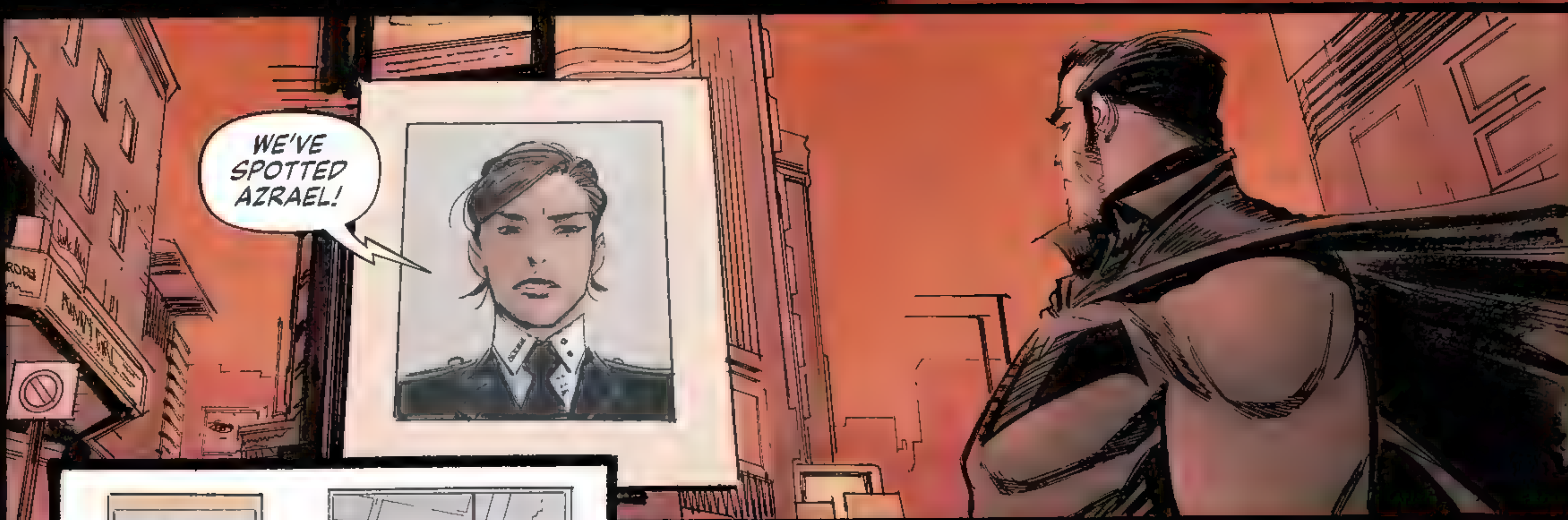


...TO BE
BATMAN
ONE LAST
TIME.



BRUCE
WAYNE, COME
IN.

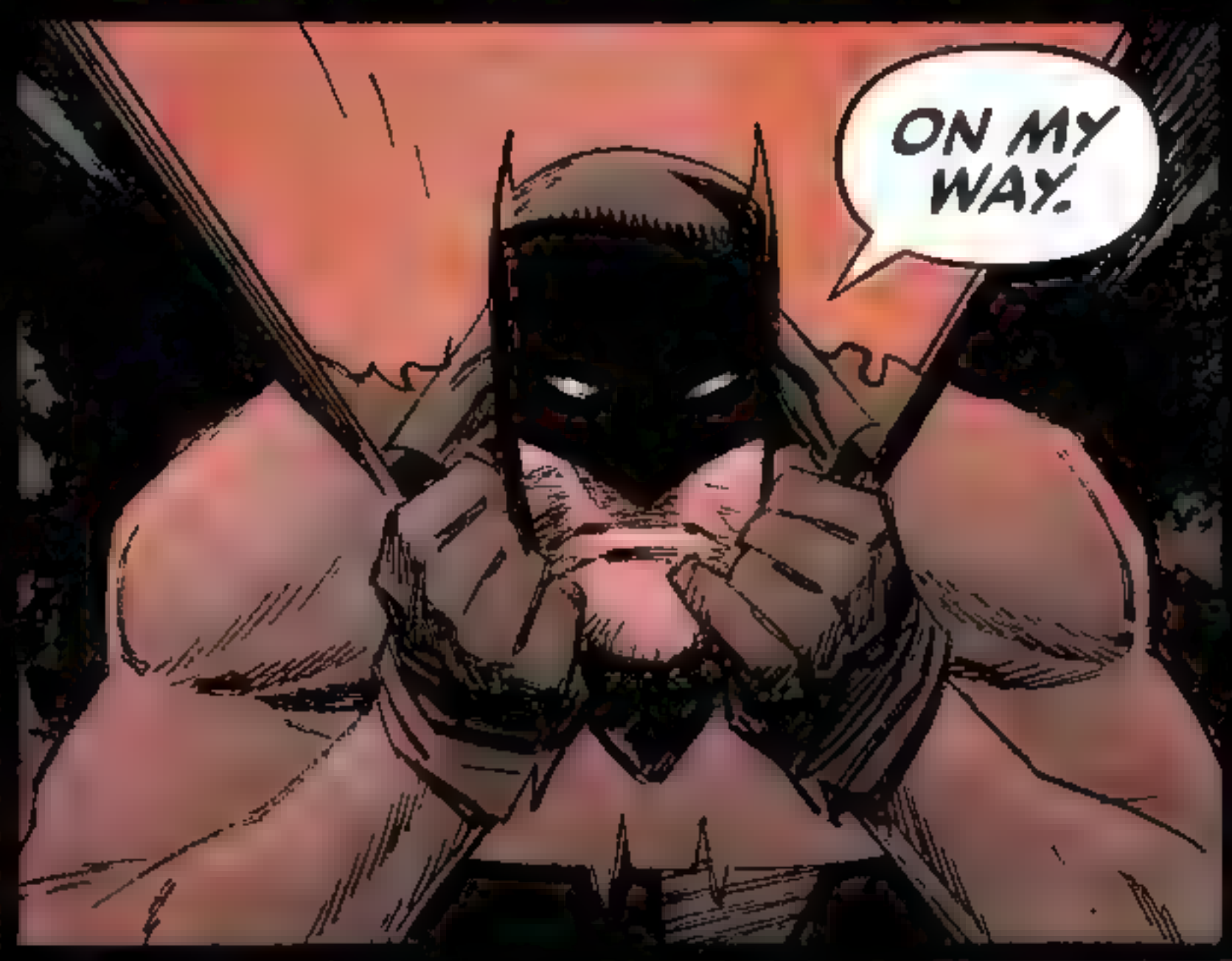




WE'VE
SPOTTED
AZRAEL!



EAST
RIVER HIGHWAY,
HEADING
NORTH.



ON MY
WAY.



FROOM!



FWOSH!



BATMAN **CURSE OF THE** **WHITE KNIGHT**

BOOK SEVEN

Sean Murphy

Script, Art, Covers

Matt Hollingsworth

Colors & Cover Colors

AndWorld Design

Letters

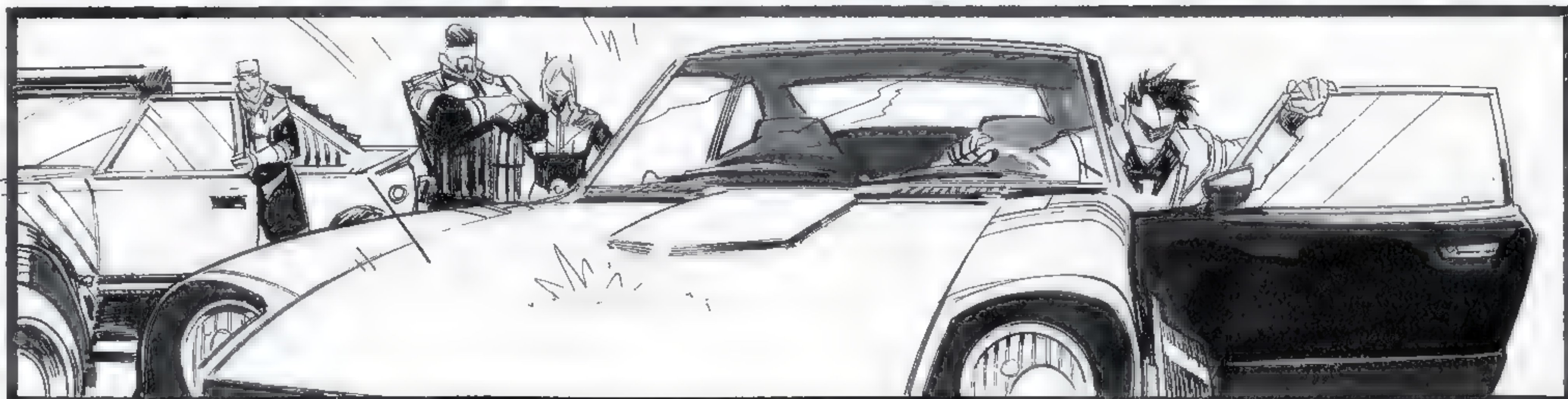
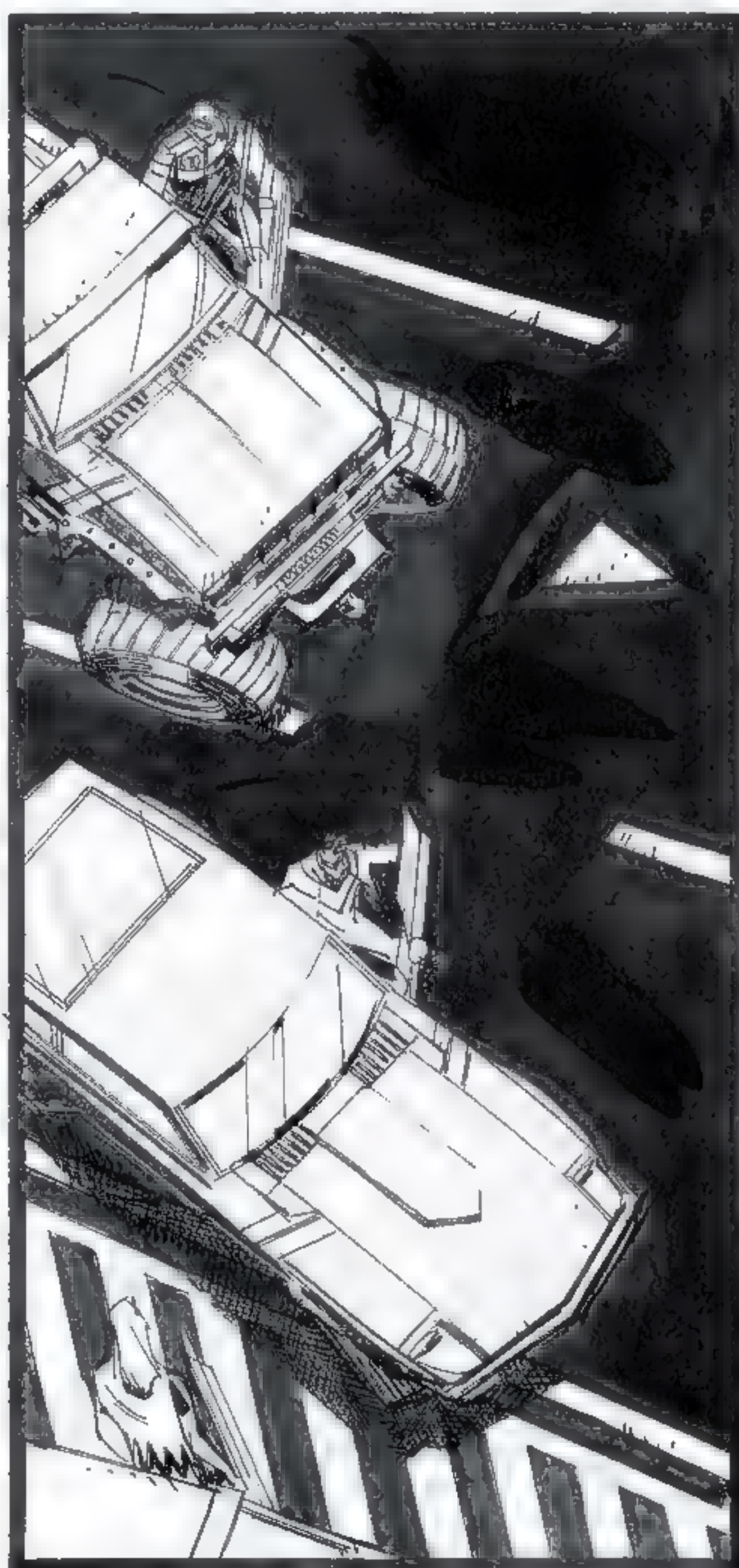
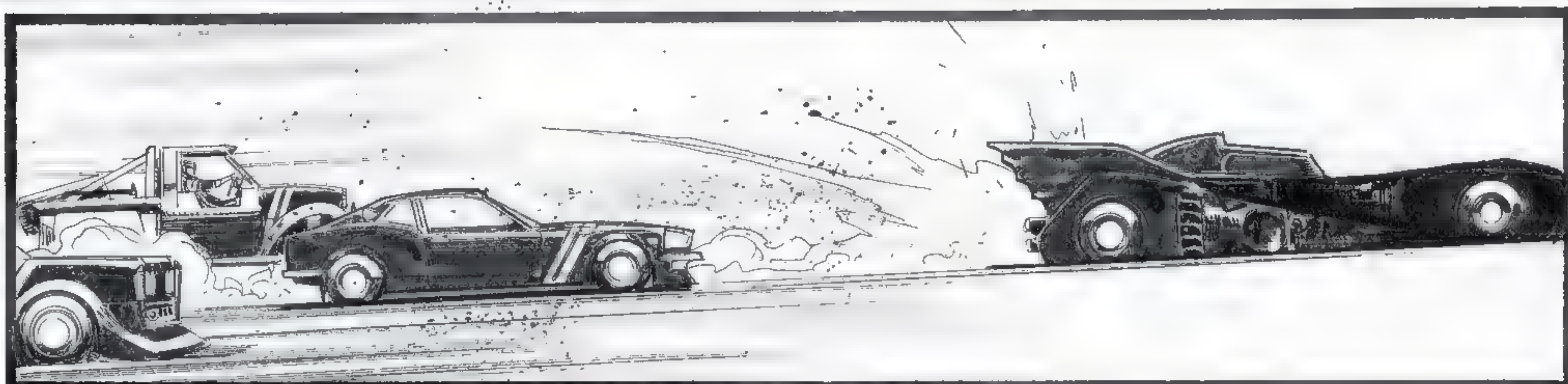
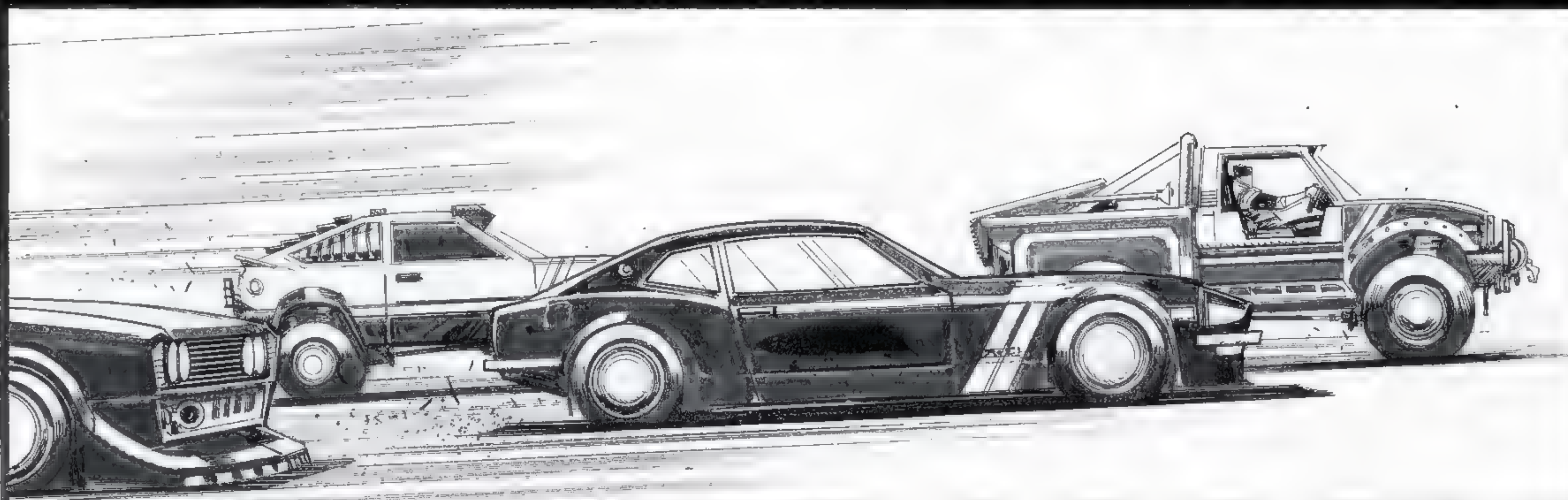
Batman

created by

Bob Kane with Bill Finger

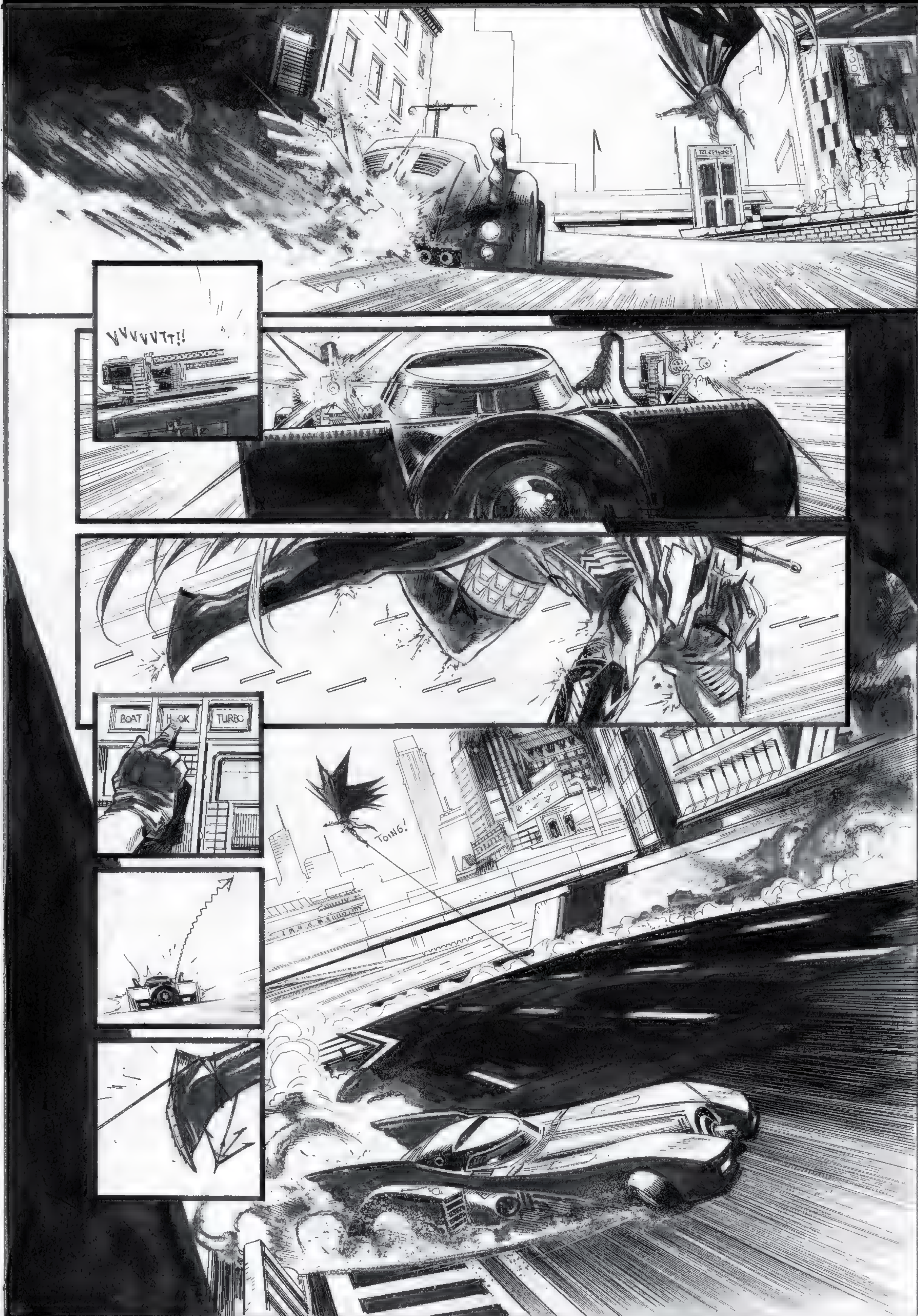
NEXT ISSUE:

Black-and-white art for BATMAN: CURSE OF THE WHITE KNIGHT #8 by Sean Murphy



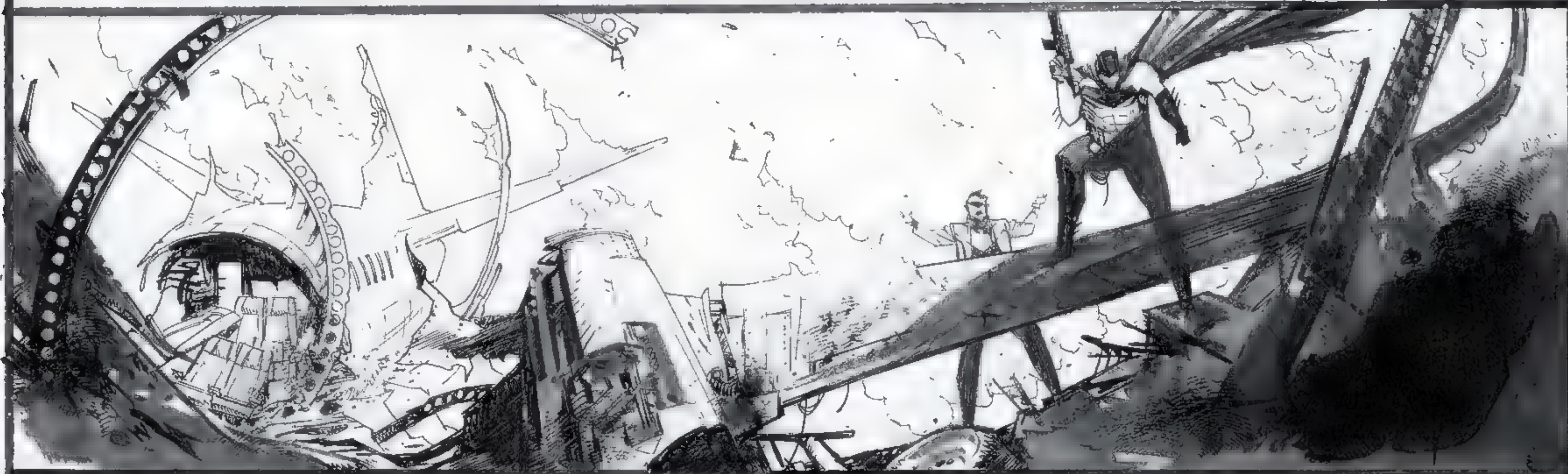
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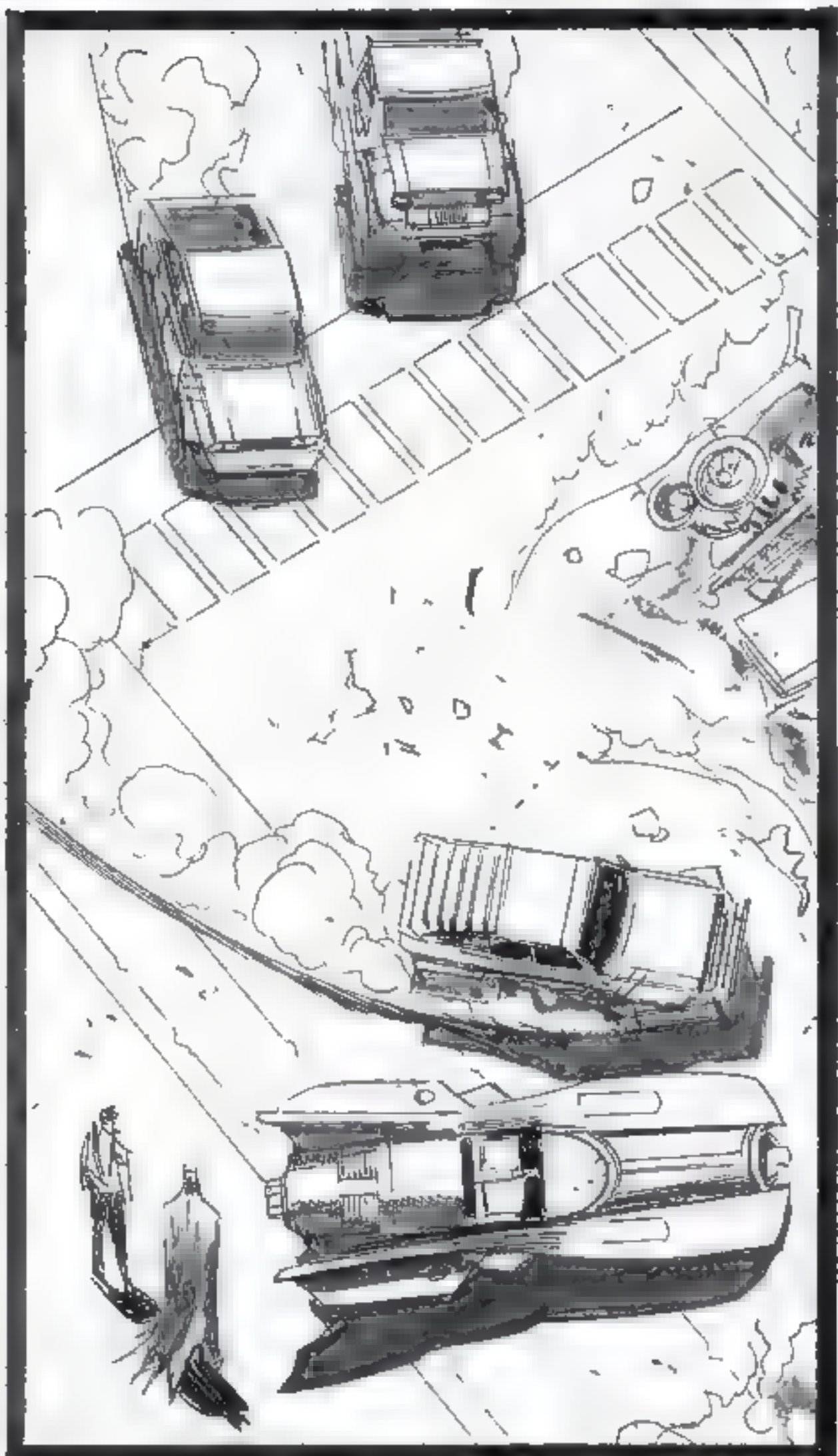
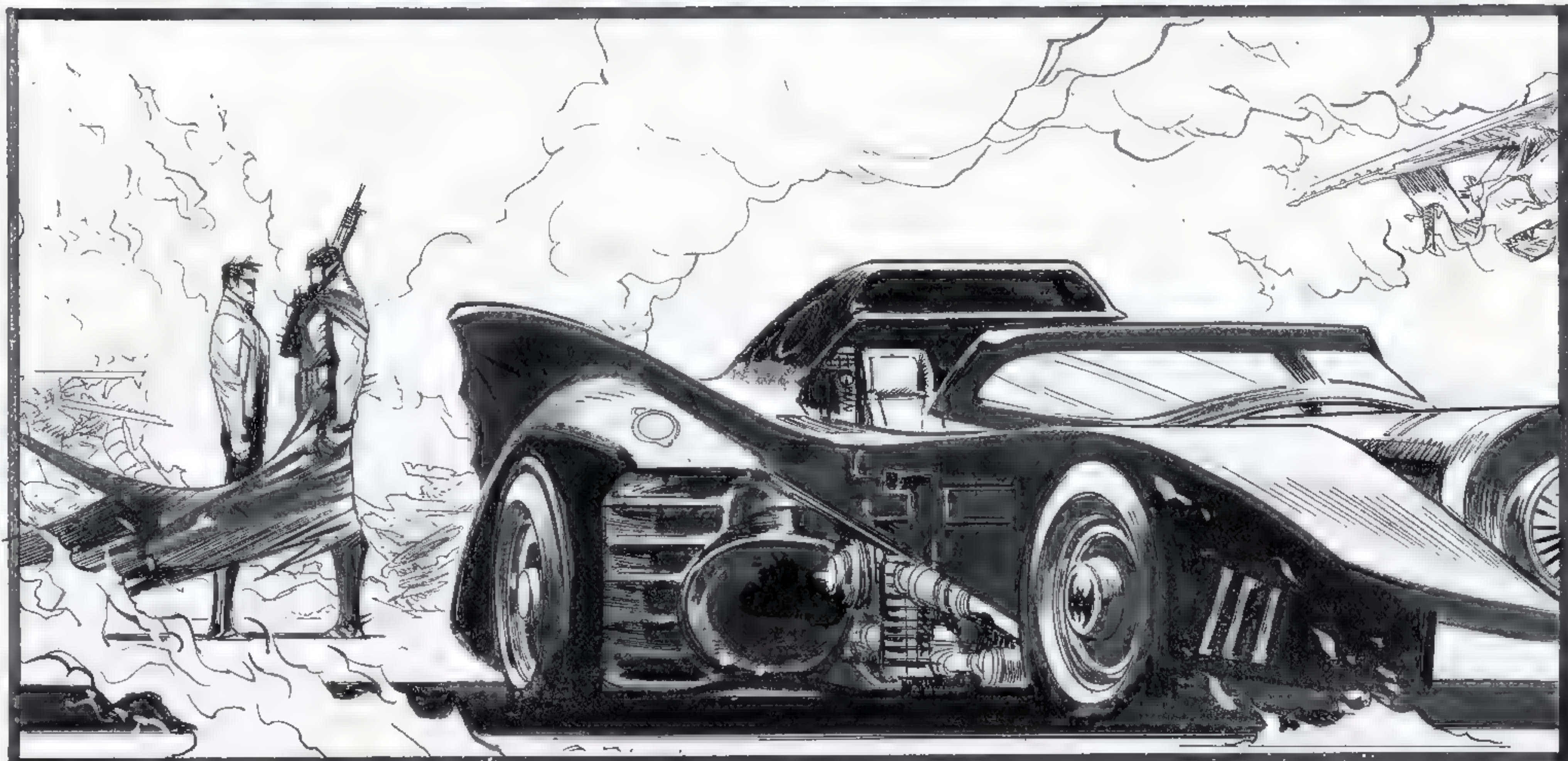
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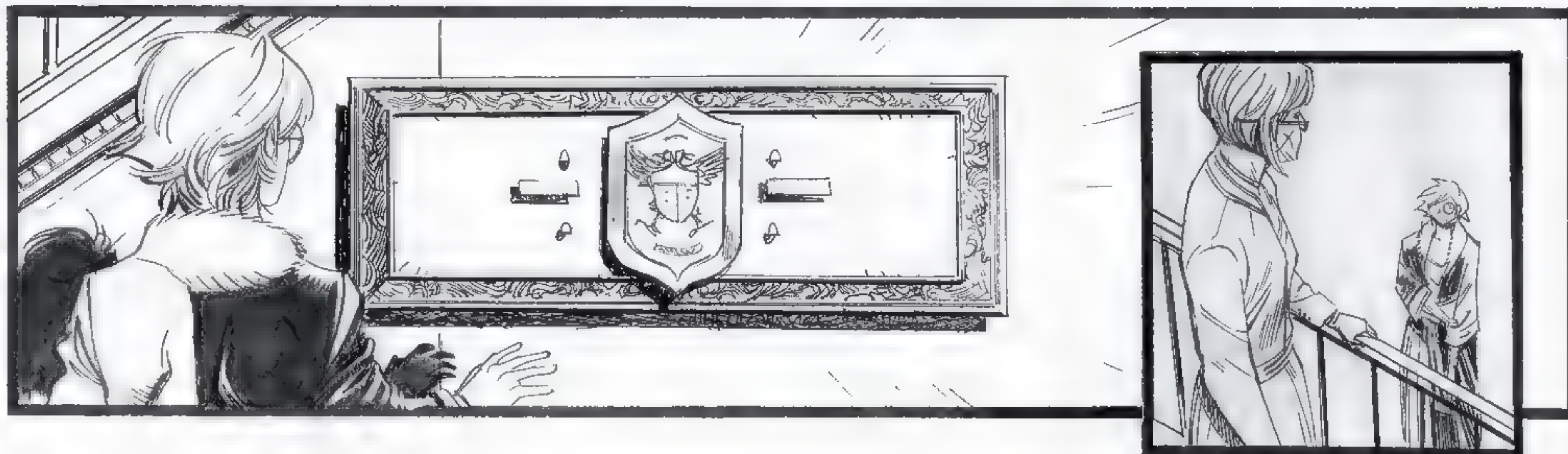
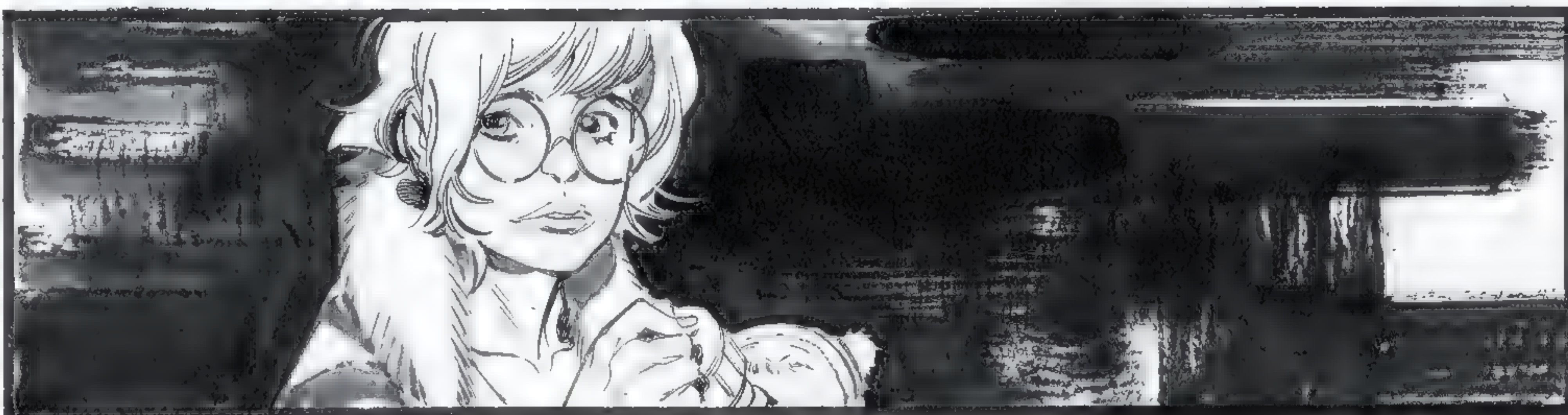
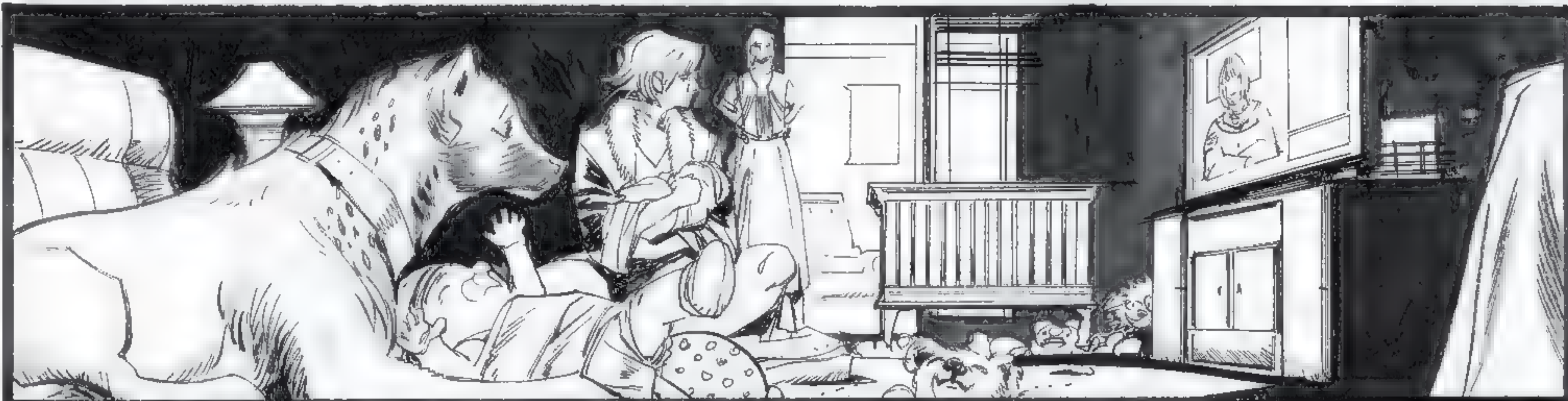
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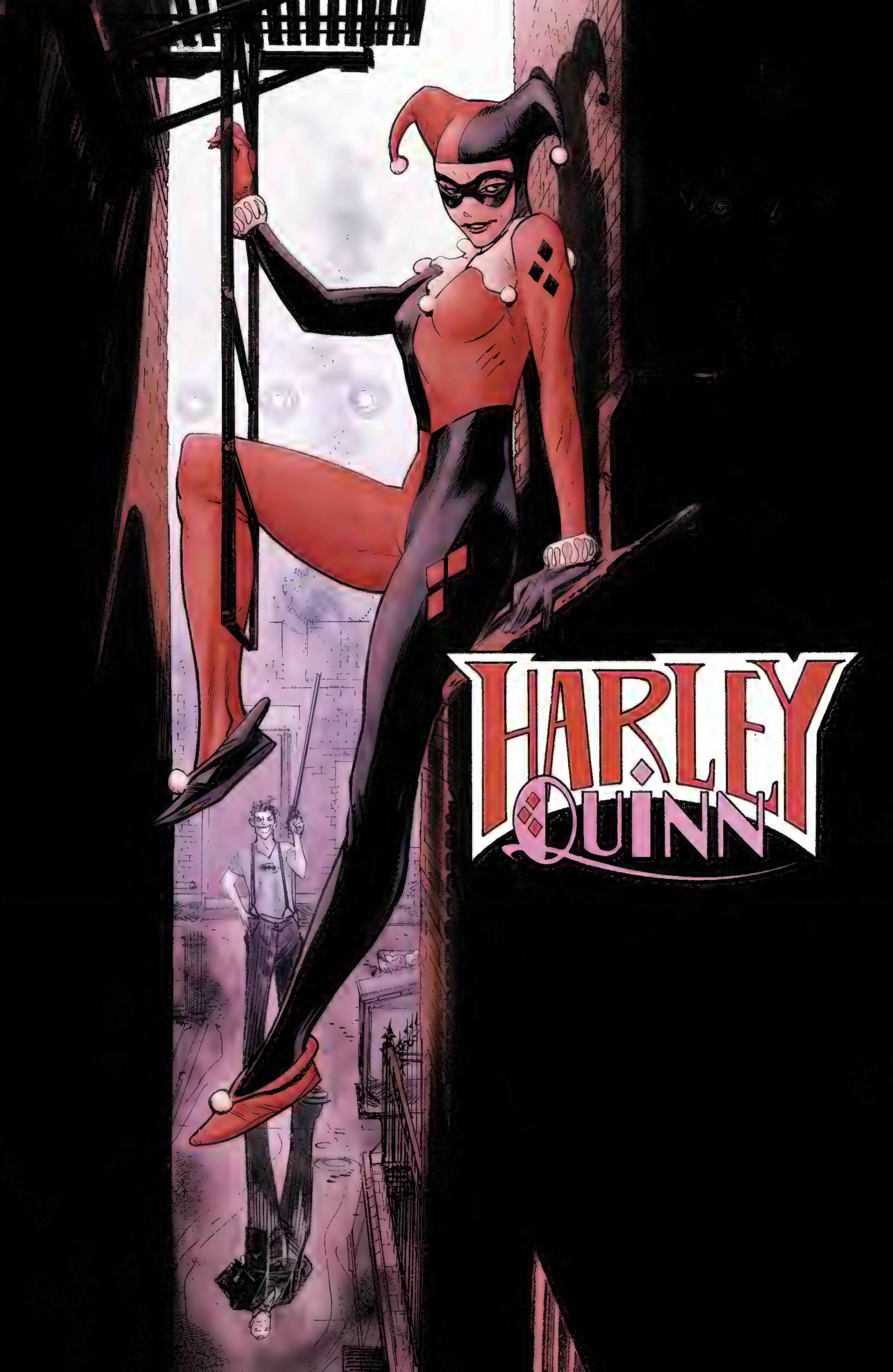
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HARLEY QUINN

Written & illustrated by

SEAN MURPHY

DC
BLACK
LABEL



"Cinematic
and graphic."

—A.V. Club

"Murphy
was truly
born to draw
Batman."

—IGN

"A breakout
hit."

—SyFy Wire

"Holy cow
do you get
your
money's
worth."

—Nerdist

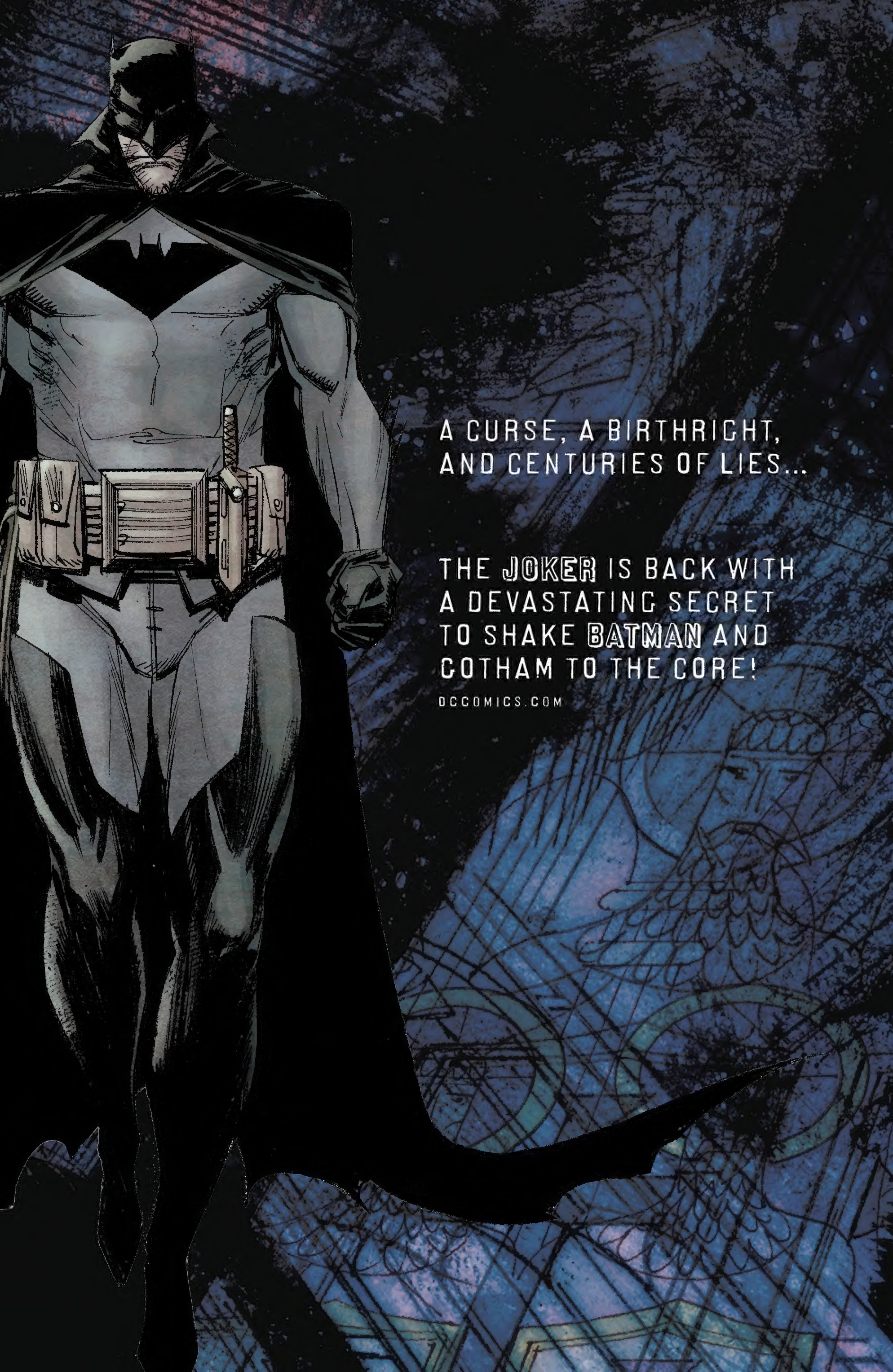
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